Declining Enrollment

Overview for Committee
Topics

**Topic 1:** Denver a Changing City Slides

**Topic 2:** DPS Enrollment trends

**Topic 3:** School Choice

**Topic 4:** School Finance and Budget - School offerings and enrollment

**Topic 5:** Colorado Laws for Charter Schools
Key Questions

As you review the data, please keep the following questions in mind

➢ What was your first reaction to this information? What did it make you think of?

➢ What does this information mean to you?

➢ How could it impact families?

➢ How could it impact neighborhoods/communities?

➢ How could it impact schools/school operations?
Topic 1: Denver a Changing City
Topic 1: Denver, a Changing City

Orientation and overview slide

The following slides outline the changes in Denver neighborhoods and regions.

● The first slide (slide 6), shows the differences in housing costs over the last 8 years. Regions outlined in green and dark green have greatly increased in prices.

● The second slide (slide 7), shows the changes in the number of school aged children (children under 18 years old) living in Denver regions. Regions that are red or orange have a great decrease in the number of school-aged children.

● The third slide (slide 8), shows the number of children born in Denver. There has been a decline in children being born in Denver since 2008.
Denver - Housing Sales Price Trends

City and County of Denver - 2013 to 2021

Percent Change
Housing Sale Prices 2013-2021

-31% to 0%
0% to 93%
93% to 105.5%
105.5% to 127%
127% to 166%
166% to 243%
Under 18 Population Change

Source: US Census Bureau, 2020
Denver - Births by Year

Start of 2008 Recession
Topic 2: DPS Enrollment Trends
Topic 2: DPS Enrollment

Orientation and overview slide

The following slides outline the enrollment data of Denver Public Schools.

- The first slide (slide 11), shows the enrollment of preschool (ECE) through high school. There has been a decline in overall enrollment over the last several years, and the decline in elementary level students is now progressing to secondary.

- The second slide (slide 12), shows the percent change, rather than the number of students. All grade levels are on a downward trend in enrollment.

- The third slide (slide 13) shows the the changes in school-aged children living (or residing) in Denver between 2016-2020. Regions outlined in red and orange have significant declines in the number of children living in the regions.

- The fourth slide (slide 14) shows the forecast of DPS enrollment in 2025. This estimate is based on the enrollment and reside information. Regions colored in pink have a forecast for a continued decline in enrollment through 2025.
DPS Enrollment Trends by District

Source: DPS October Count

Note:
- H is High School enrollment, M is Middle school, E is Elementary school, and EC is Early Childhood Centers or ECE
- The columns represent the number of students at each grade level during the given year

Elementary School (ES) is a leading indicator. ES enrollment peaked in 2014. As that cohort of students progressed to secondary schools, Middle Schools (MS) peaked in 2019.
DPS Enrollment Change Over Time

Note the steady percent decline starting in 2014.
DPS Enrollment Trends by Region

This chart outlines the changes in school-aged children living (or residing) in Denver between 2016-2020. Regions outlined in red and orange have **significant declines** in the number of children living in the regions.

5-Year Reside Change:
Change in Number of Elementary Students from 2016 - 2020

K-5 Reside Change:
-500 or more
-500 to -300
-300 to -100
-100 to -50
-50 to 0
0 to 50
50 to 100
100 to 300
300 to 500
500 or more
DPS Forecast enrollment

Based on previous enrollment data and the number of school-aged children living in Denver, the forecast outlines the likely enrollment in the future. This is the projects enrollment in 2025
Topic 3: DPS School Choice Data
Topic 4: DPS School Choice data

Orientation and overview slide

The following slides outline the Choice enrollment data of Denver Public Schools.

- The first slide (slide 17), shows the percentage of students who live in Denver and attend a DPS school.
- The next slides (slide 18-19), shows the percentage of students who chose their boundary (neighborhood school), or choice into a different DPS school, and the demographic differences
- The final slide (slide 20), shows the percentages of the types of schools that DPS families chose - District-run schools, Innovation Zone schools, and Charter schools.
What Percent of K-12 Students in Denver Attend a DPS School?

DPS loses a very small number of students to private schools and other school districts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># Denver Students enrolled in Homeschooling</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>491 (.5%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data for K-12 only; does not include homeschool students.*
What % of students attend their boundary (neighborhood) school vs choosing a different DPS School?

Almost half of Denver students choose to attend a school other than their boundary school

Students “exercise choice” by submitting a SchoolChoice application, via the administrative transfer process, moving to a new boundary but remaining in their former school, IEP service site.

*2020-21 data. Includes K-12 only; Alternative schools are not included in the above chart.
Are students of color using SchoolChoice to choose a different school at the same rates as white students?

Denver students of color choice-out of their boundary school at a higher rate than white students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic Group</th>
<th>% of Students who Choice-out of their Boundary/Zone School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students of Color</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*202-21 data. Includes K-12 only; Alternative schools are not included in the above chart.
**Students of Color includes: Native American, Asian, Black, Latino, Multiple Races, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
What schools did students who attend a school that is not their boundary school choose?

More students chose another district managed school than a charter school.

Izone +DM = 66.5%

Choiced to an Innovation Zone School 6.8%

Choiced to a District Managed School 59.7%

Choiced to a Charter School 33.5%

*202-21 data. Includes K-12 only; Alternative schools are not included in the above chart.
Topic 4: School Finance/Budget - School offerings & enrollment size
Topic 4: School Finance & Budget and school offerings with enrollment size

Orientation and overview slide

The following slides outline the financial and budget data of DPS and DPS schools.

- The first slide (slide 23), describes how Colorado and DPS schools are funded based on the number of students.

- The second slide (slide 24), shows the DPS enrollment over the last 3 years. DPS receives funding on a per student basis from the state, so as the DPS enrollment declines, DPS receives less funding from the state.

- The next slides (slides 25-26), outline an example of school budgeting based on enrollment sizes.

- The next slide (slide 27) shows the percentage of students of color and students identified as qualifying for Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL), with the enrollment size of schools.

- The next slides (slides 28-29) outline the budget assistance schools request when their per-student budget based on enrollment is not enough to cover the school programs and staffing.
Finance & Declining Enrollment

Overview

Colorado school funding is based on the number of students in a district. This means there is a finite amount of funding available for DPS.

DPS schools are funded in the same way - based on the number of students at each school.

DPS also allocates adjusted funding for schools based on the schools demographics. For example, schools that serve higher percentages of students on free or reduced lunch programs receive more funding.

When DPS declines in total enrollment, the amount of total funding it receives from the state also declines.
Understanding Declining Enrollment: 2021-22 Preliminary Enrollment Data & 2022-23 Projections

DPS K-12 Enrollment

Note: This chart does not include early elementary (ECE) enrollment because ECE programs are funded differently.

87K students in 2019 to 83K next year, could be a difference of $50 million in the DPS budget.
School Budget & Declining Enrollment

DPS receives funding from the state on a per-student basis. The fewer students, the less funding.

DPS then dispurses school-based funding in the same way as the state. Our schools build their academic and support programs based on the number of students they have and the budget they receive is based on the number of students.

- The charts on the following slides show the types of program and staffing opportunities and budget levels for larger schools (500 enrollment) and smaller schools (300 enrollment).

- Note that the simulation is based on a generic staffing model, and each school has the option of staffing differently.
This school leader at a school of 500 students was able to staff the school programs, and maintained a surplus budget.

This school leader at a school of 300 students will need to make adjustments to the program and staffing model, or request budget assistance to staff all of these roles.
This chart shows that schools with low or declining enrollment tend to serve higher percentages of students of color and students identified as Free or Reduced Lunch (FRL). DPS schools with higher enrollment tend to serve lower percentages of students of color and students who qualify for FRL programs.
Finance & Declining Enrollment

DPS offers additional funding to district-run schools for a variety of needs.

- This includes both a “small school subsidy” for schools with enrollment less than 215 students
- and additional “budget assistance” that includes schools that have declining enrollment or are projected to have fewer students than they would need to fund and staff all of their desired programs, among other reasons.

A chart that outlines the amount of additional funding assistance that schools have requested in the last 3 years is on the following slide.
Finance & Declining Enrollment
Chart outlines additional funding requested by district-run schools in millions of dollars

"Small Schools" Assistance and Additional Budget Assistance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>&quot;Small Schools&quot; Assistance</th>
<th>Additional Budget Assistance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019-2020</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>($4.5 million total)</td>
<td>($8.1 million total)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-2022</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>($8.1 million total)</td>
<td>($11.1 million total)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022-2023</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Amount is listed in millions of dollars

Represents amount typically requested until recent years
Topic 5: Colorado Charter Laws
Topic 5: Charter Laws

Colorado state law sets the guidelines for opening and maintaining charter schools in Colorado. These laws guide the policies and processes in DPS for creating and renewing charter school contracts.

Two important legal sanctions related to Charter schools and the district’s declining enrollment are outlined below:

1) **New School Applications:**
   - Colorado law requires DPS to accept applications for new schools.
   - The Board is not calling for new applications or trying to open new schools in our impacted regions, but by law, DPS must accept applications each year.
   - If the Board denies new school applications, the group who applied for a new school can appeal to the State Board, and the State Board can overturn decisions made by the DPS Board.

2) **Charter renewal and contracts:**
   - Once a charter school is open, the school has the right to remain open as long as the school meets the expectations outlined in the contract.
   - State law clearly outlines the reasons a charter school could be forced to close, and charter contracts cannot be dissolved based on the district’s enrollment.
Charter Law: 1) New Applications

Below is information on the specific language in charter laws

Law for accepting new applications:

Colorado state statute requires school districts to receive and review all applications for charter schools

"(b) The local board of education shall receive and review all applications for charter schools. If the local board of education does not review a charter application, it shall be deemed to have denied the charter application."

Boards are also not permitted to have a moratorium on charter applications:

"(8) The local board of education of a school district shall not impose a moratorium on the approval of charter applications for charter schools within the school district."
Charter Law: 2) Renewal/non-renewal

Charter schools have a contract with DPS. The contract outlines the agreements and expectations for charter schools. Charter schools have the right to continue their contract as long as they meet the expectations in the contract.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is the language from the state statute that outlines criteria for charter renewal/non-renewal (closure)?</th>
<th>Link to the full text of the CO Charter School Act</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A charter may be revoked or not renewed by the chartering local board of education if it determines that the charter school did any of the following:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Committed a material violation of any of the conditions, standards, or procedures set forth in the charter contract;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Failed to meet or make adequate progress toward achievement of the goals, objectives, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management; or</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Violated any provision of law from which the charter school was not specifically exempted.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>