## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### DISTRICT-WIDE .......... 3
- Introduction .......................5
- Enrollment Context .................7
- Enrollment Forecasts ..............8-11
- Inter-District Movement ..........12-13

Special Section:
- FNE & Stapleton Forecast .........14-20
- Denver Plan Progress ..............21
- SPF Overview .....................22-24
- Demographics .................25-26
- School Choice Overview ..........27-31
- Summary ..................................28-34

### Far Northeast ..............35
- Enrollment & Capacity ............35-37
- SPF by Grade Level ...............38-40
- School Choice .......................41-44
- Summary ..................................45

### Northwest ..................68
- Enrollment & Capacity ............68-70
- SPF by Grade Level ...............71-73
- School Choice .......................74-77
- Summary ..................................78

### Southwest ..................79
- Enrollment & Capacity ............79-81
- SPF by Grade Level ...............82-84
- School Choice .......................85-88
- Summary ..................................89

### Southeast ...................90
- Enrollment & Capacity ............90-92
- SPF by Grade Level ...............93-95
- School Choice .......................96-99
- Summary ..................................100

### Near Northeast .............46
- Enrollment & Capacity ............46-48
- SPF by Grade Level ...............49-51
- School Choice .......................52-55
- Summary ..................................56

### Central .....................57
- Enrollment & Capacity ............57-59
- SPF by Grade Level ...............60-62
- School Choice .......................63-66
- Summary ..................................67
Introduction

The Strategic Regional Analysis (SRA) details the current state of enrollment, capacity, Choice behavior, and school performance by region and identifies gaps in each area that may require district intervention.

Using comprehensive enrollment data for both district and charter schools, the SRA is able to utilize the cross-functional data below to look thoroughly at enrollment trends and forecasts. This yields an understanding of where performance and service gaps exist and which areas will need facility support due to growth or will need strategies for managing enrollment declines. To this end, the 2018 SRA includes a special section that provides an in-depth look at trends in Stapleton and the Far Northeast, areas that are expecting a mix of high growth and steep declines.

The information in the SRA also informs progress toward district goals. In fact, the SRA is a key planning document that supports the Denver Plan 2020 goal of having at least 80% of students attending SPF green or blue schools in every region in the district.
SRA Integration with School Choice

The SRA informs the Call for New Quality Schools and is integrated into several key components of the school planning process.

The Call for New Quality Schools, a public document that transparently articulates priority needs for new schools or additional capacity in the district, is open to both district-run and charter schools. It invites new school applications to meet needs identified throughout the district, facilitates quality reviews of these applications, engages communities, and supports Board decision making on new school approvals. The SRA, in addition to being an important component of the Call for New Quality Schools, is an input into the Facility Allocation Policy and Placement Process and many other key parts of the school planning process, as shown below.
Geographic Organization

The SRA provides a district-wide overview followed by an in-depth analysis of the 6 planning regions shown on the map below.

Denver Public Schools Planning Regions

- Far Northeast = FNE
- Near Northeast = NNE
- Central = CEN
- Northwest = NW
- Southwest = SW
- Southeast = SE

Denver Public Schools | Strategic Regional Analysis | Fall 2018
DPS Enrollment has grown by 13,933 students since 2010. However, the rate of growth has been slowing significantly since 2014, indicating that enrollment may plateau or decline in the next few years.

Enrollment increased by roughly 10,700 students in the 5 year period between 2010 and 2014. Between 2014 and 2018, enrollment increased by around 3,200. The slowing growth rate indicates that enrollment will plateau or decline in the next few years.

The steep recent decline in growth rate is largely attributable to lower birth rates, demographic changes, and increased housing prices throughout most of Denver. These changes have resulted in lower student yield per household and lower household turnover.

*Note that the 2018 enrollment numbers used throughout this document are based on preliminary 2018 October Count numbers and official October Count enrollment could be different than reported here. These numbers will be updated once DPS Planning receives official October Count data from CDE in early December.
The factors driving enrollment declines will most strongly influence growth in coming years.

Recently, the primary factors of enrollment growth have been residential (particularly single-family) development and increased out-of-district enrollment. In the next several years there will be significant development in the Stapleton, DIA, and Gateway neighborhoods. Some of this development will be multi-family and townhome units with lower student yields, particularly in the Gateway area. All three neighborhoods will also have development of single-family detached homes, which tend to yield high rates of students. These units will contribute to most of the enrollment growth in the next few years.

Another significant contributor to enrollment has been increasing out-of-district enrollment. Since 2016, out-of-district enrollment has increased by roughly 700 students.

The primary factors driving the slowing of enrollment growth are declining birth rates and rapidly increasing housing prices. Reflecting the national trend of declining birth rates, consistently declining birth rates across the city have led to elementary enrollment declines since 2014. Middle school declines are possible as early as 2020.

Higher priced housing, which has historically led to lower student yields, is also contributing to slower enrollment growth. This dynamic will continue to cause significant downward pressure on future enrollment growth as housing costs in the city continue to rise.

Enrollment growth may also be slowed by the continued shift in residential development. Aside from the development in the Stapleton, DIA, and Gateway neighborhoods mentioned above, additional residential units are planned across Denver. Instead of higher yield single-family units, many of these units will be multi-family units that have historically had smaller student yields.
This year, Denver Public Schools partnered with the Denver Regional Council of Governments to conduct an independent 5-year student enrollment forecast. This year’s forecast builds off of work started with Shift Research Lab in 2017.

What is the DPS 5-Year Forecast?

- An independent data analysis that provides detailed information on the number of school-aged children residing in the DPS district and attending DPS schools through 2023 by age group and block group.

- Forecast data informs long-term school needs in different geographic areas.

- This year’s forecast uses the same method and process as last year, which can be viewed in the 2017 SRA. Further details on data and methodologies can be shared with the public on request.

- This year’s forecast uses the following assumptions:
  - A recession does not occur in the forecast period.
  - There is no significant change in the labor market or permitting process that would disrupt the building of new homes.
  - The housing price points are constant.
  - Capture and cohort survival rates are an average of the three previous years.
  - School quality and programs are anticipated to remain constant.

The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) is a nonprofit planning organization comprised of representatives from our region’s counties, cities, and towns. They provide high-quality information, tools, and resources to internal and external partners and customers.

DRCOG’s mission lays the groundwork for collaboration to establish guidelines, set policy, and allocate funding in the areas of:

- Transportation and Personal Mobility
- Growth and Development
- Aging and Disability Resources.

https://drcog.org/
Data from the World Bank show that birth rates in the United States have been declining consistently for more than 5 years, and data from the Colorado DPHE show that Denver’s birth rates have echoed this trend. Recently, however, there has been significant population growth in Denver and while many of these new residents do not have children, the number of births are predicted to increase slightly in the next year or two. Nevertheless, the birth rate (the number of births as a percentage of the population) will continue to decline, meaning that between 2021 and 2023, it is likely that the number of births will also start to decline.

The birth rate declines have been reflected in the size of kindergarten cohorts at DPS. While there have been and will likely be some small upticks in cohort sizes, the downward trend of cohort sizes has been and is forecast to be persistent. This year’s kindergarten cohort has around 800 fewer students than 2014-15, by 2022-23 it is forecast that there will be 1,300 fewer. The decrease will have a compounding effect on enrollment as the smaller cohorts move through subsequent grades.
District enrollment is forecast to decline by 5% overall by 2023, but some areas will still experience substantial growth.

Total district-wide enrollment is forecast to decrease 5% by 2023. Birth rates, housing prices, and smaller cohorts progressing through each grade will be the primary factors driving this decline.

Elementary enrollment is already declining and will likely continue to decline through 2023, with a forecast decline of roughly 7%. Previously large cohorts are forecast to delay the decline of middle school enrollment until 2021 and of high school enrollment until 2023. The forecast declines in middle schools will be smaller in number than in elementary, but will also result in a 10% decrease. High school enrollment, on the other hand, is forecast to increase by 3%.

District wide, over half of Denver’s 78 neighborhoods are forecast to have declines in the number of children attending DPS schools. Growth will primarily be concentrated in the Stapleton, Gateway, and DIA neighborhoods, while the SE is forecast to experience minimal growth. The remainder of the city is forecast to have stagnant or declining student enrollment.

Note: 2023 forecast holds the number of ECE students and students living outside Denver, but attending a DPS school, as a constant number (i.e. 2018 = 2023).
Enrollment growth at all levels is forecast to be primarily in Stapleton, Gateway, and DIA.

**2023 Forecast: ELEMENTARY**

District-wide elementary enrollment has been declining since 2014 and is forecast to decrease by 7% between 2018 and 2023. The largest declines are forecast to happen in the Montbello and Barnum neighborhoods. The largest increases are forecast to happen in the Stapleton, Gateway, and DIA areas.

**2023 Forecast: MIDDLE**

Birth rate declines have not yet impacted overall middle school enrollment, but are forecast to do so as soon as 2021. The largest declines are forecast to happen in the Montbello and Athmar Park/Ruby Hill/Mar Lee neighborhoods and in the Central region. Stapleton, on the other hand, will continue to contribute to growth in the NNE, while the Gateway and DIA areas contribute to growth in the FNE. The SE will see marginal growth as well.

**2023 Forecast: HIGH**

District-wide high school enrollment is forecast to have the most wide-spread growth because larger cohorts will still be progressing into high school through 2023. Stapleton and Gateway will see the most growth at the high school level. The Hampden area is forecast to see growth as well, but enrollment gains in this area will be much smaller than the Stapleton and Gateway areas.
The number of out-of-district students attending a DPS school has been steadily increasing since 2014. However, this trend may not continue due to increased housing prices and decreased student-aged populations in the counties surrounding Denver.

Some DPS schools draw students from throughout the metro area and the state due to their unique programs (such as Denver School of the Arts). However, many other schools draw out-of-district students due to their proximity to the borders of neighboring counties. In particular, high performing schools located on the east side of the city are likely to draw students from Aurora.

Out-of-District Students Attending DPS Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Out-of-District Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>4,671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>4,894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>5,289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>5,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>5,636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>6,096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>6,371</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Out-of-District Students by School of Attendance 2018-2019

Note: Throughout the regional sections of this report, ECE and Out-of-District students are held as a constant.
Inter-District Movement

DPS had a net loss of around 300 students last year from inter-district movement.

Of the Denver residents that chose to attend schools located in surrounding Districts in 2017, most attended school in Jefferson County.

For students who attended DPS in 2017 but lived in another district, most came from Adams-Arapahoe, though there were close to as many students from Jefferson County and Cherry Creek.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Receiving District</th>
<th>Number of students that reside in Denver and attend another district</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson County R-1</td>
<td>2,676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Littleton 6</td>
<td>849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adams-Arapahoe 28J</td>
<td>737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas County Re 1</td>
<td>541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry Creek 5</td>
<td>434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,237</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sending District</th>
<th>Number of students that do not reside in Denver and attend DPS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adams-Arapahoe 28J</td>
<td>1,469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson County R-1</td>
<td>1,298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry Creek 5</td>
<td>1,221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westminster Public Schools</td>
<td>604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adams 12 Five Star Schools</td>
<td>344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,936</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Based on 2017-18 Colorado Department of Education data.*
The Far Northeast and Stapleton neighborhoods are likely to experience a mix of high growth and decline over the next 5 years. DPS partnered with DRCOG to conduct in-depth analyses on these neighborhoods to better understand the potential impact neighborhood change could have on enrollment.

The Far Northeast and Stapleton neighborhoods are not yet mature neighborhoods, either because they are new or likely to go through significant demographic changes. To understand long-term growth patterns, it is important to identify which type of neighborhoods they could mature into given their current socio-economic structure. Based on data analysis and conversations with DPS and the City and County of Denver, DRCOG built a baseline forecast and explored the potential variation around this forecast.

According to the forecast, Stapleton, DIA, and Gateway are the sole neighborhoods where rapid growth is projected. The Montbello neighborhood situated between them is forecast to have the greatest declines of any neighborhood. The Green Valley Ranch area is also forecast to have some declines. This dynamic will require careful monitoring for capacity management.
FNE Overall Enrollment Forecast

The substantial declines forecast for the Montbello neighborhood will override increases in the DIA and Gateway areas, leading to a loss of around 400 students in the Far Northeast between 2018 and 2023.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>DIA</th>
<th>Gateway</th>
<th>Green Valley Ranch</th>
<th>Montbello</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2,039</td>
<td>5,857</td>
<td>2,039</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>8,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2,336</td>
<td>5,789</td>
<td>2,336</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>8,541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2,645</td>
<td>5,699</td>
<td>2,645</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>8,277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>2,814</td>
<td>5,565</td>
<td>2,814</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>8,046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>2,975</td>
<td>5,471</td>
<td>2,975</td>
<td>628</td>
<td>7,776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>3,077</td>
<td>5,330</td>
<td>3,077</td>
<td>718</td>
<td>7,543</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enrollment increases in the FNE between 2018 and 2023 will come from the DIA and Gateway neighborhoods, which are forecast to increase by about 400 and 1,000, respectively. These two neighborhoods together are forecast to see as much enrollment growth as all other Denver neighborhoods combined (excluding Stapleton), contributing to 39% of all DPS enrollment growth forecast between 2018 and 2023.

Montbello, on the other hand, is forecast to experience a decline of over 1,300 students by 2023. Green Valley Ranch is forecast to decline by over 500 students. Combined, these areas account for almost 25% of forecast declines district-wide, and they overwhelm the increases in Gateway and DIA, leading to a net loss of 400 students in the FNE.
Enrollment in the DIA area is forecast to increase by about 400 students between 2018 and 2023.

Much of the enrollment increase in the DIA neighborhood, north of 56th Ave. and east of Tower Road, comes from the elementary cohort, which accounts for almost half of the 400 student increase. Middle and high school enrollment are also forecast to increase, but the combined enrollment increase will be around half of the elementary increase.

DIA’s significant growth, starting in 2020, will be attributable to new housing developments expected to be built-out in that year. New units available are forecast to increase to around 2,500.

However, potential variations in the composition and timing of residential development in the DIA area, mean that there is significant variability possible in the forecast. If the development is primarily multi-family units with low student yields, then enrollment may increase less than predicted. If development is primarily single-family or townhome units with high student yields, on the other hand, enrollment could increase more than expected.

In all scenarios, additional elementary school seats will likely be necessary. However, it is still unclear what units will be available when and what yields they will have. Because of this, development in the area is being closely monitored to determine when extra capacity will be necessary.

Enrollment in middle and high is forecast to increase more slowly than elementary enrollment between 2018 and 2023. Middle school enrollment zones in this region may be able to absorb the forecast growth, though capacity would be close to full utilization. There is also a high school enrollment zone and high schools in the region are forecast to have the most excess capacity, and, so, should be able to absorb the forecast growth (see the FNE regional section pgs. 34-44).
Gateway Forecast

Enrollment in the Gateway area, west of Tower Road, is forecast to increase by roughly 1,000 students between 2018 and 2023. Half of this increase will be at the elementary level.

Gateway

Enrollment in Gateway is forecast to grow consistently in the next 5 years. Half of this growth is forecast to be at the elementary level. High school enrollment, however, will also experience substantial enrollment growth.

Potential variations in the composition and timing of residential development in the Gateway area mean that there is significant variability possible in the forecast. If the development is primarily multi-family units with low student yields, then enrollment may increase less than predicted. If development is primarily single-family or townhome units with high student yields, on the other hand, enrollment could increase more than expected.

At the elementary level, the Gateway Elementary Zone may help absorb some of the projected growth, but capacity will still be needed. Potential land purchases are being explored and development is being closely monitored to determine when the extra capacity will be needed.

At the middle and high school levels, zones will absorb some growth as well. At the middle school level, capacity may be fully utilized by 2023. At the high school level, however, excess capacity in the region should be adequate for the forecast growth.
Green Valley Ranch Forecast

Enrollment in the Green Valley Ranch area, to the east of Tower Road, is forecast to decline gradually between 2018 and 2023.

Overall enrollment is projected to decrease by about 500 students over the next 5 years. Approximately 300 of this will be at the elementary school level. The middle and high school levels are forecast to lose about 100 students each.

The enrollment declines are primarily attributable to the area being close to full development. With considerably fewer new families moving in and declining birth rates, replacements for students advancing through grades will decrease.

Capacity in this area will increase as enrollment declines. This increase in capacity may help to offset some of the growth that is forecast to happen the neighboring Gateway area.
Montbello is forecast to see a larger volume of decline than any other neighborhood in Denver between 2018 and 2023 (though it will not see the largest percent decline). Because of Montebello’s size and the volume of the forecast decline, the expected decrease is almost twice as high as the second largest neighborhood decrease and accounts for 20% of expected district enrollment declines. The largest decreases in Montbello are forecast to affect elementary enrollment though 2020, and then impact middle school enrollment from 2021 to 2023. High school enrollment is forecast to decrease considerably more slowly through 2023.

The declines can primarily be explained by the decrease in births in the Montbello neighborhood. Lower numbers of births are due primarily to the fact that Montbello residents are mostly aging in place. As residents age and because they stay in their homes, there are fewer child-bearing residents and less housing turnover, resulting in fewer available units in the neighborhood.

Enrollment in Montbello will almost certainly continue to decline through 2023. The forecast above predicts a loss of more than 1,300 students between 2018 and 2023. If the Montbello neighborhood experiences the displacement of families for economic reasons, the enrollment declines could be significantly higher by 2023. However, if the neighborhood is able to attract more families, enrollment declines could be mitigated.

Excess capacity, mostly at the middle and high school levels, will increase in Montbello as enrollment declines. The excess capacity may help absorb some of the growth in the surrounding neighborhoods. (See the FNE section of this report (pgs. 38-48) for more information on regional capacity and expected enrollment.)
Stapleton Overall Enrollment Forecast

Stapleton’s enrollment growth between 2018 and 2023 is forecast to contribute to 36% of district growth.

![Stapleton Enrollment Chart]

The elementary cohort is forecast to see declines starting in 2022 and the middle school cohort will see declines starting in 2023. This will be largely driven by the fact that the neighborhood will reach build-out capacity by 2021 and will become a mature neighborhood. The high school cohort will continue to grow through 2023 as the large elementary and middle cohorts from 2021 and earlier move into high school.

Stapleton enrollment will increase through 2023 due to development growth in the area. The continuing growth at the elementary level means additional capacity will be needed in the next 3-5 years. However, it is not clear yet when the capacity will be needed or how much will be needed, but development in this area is being closely monitored.

For middle school, the middle school opening in 2019 will provide additional capacity. Additionally, the middle school enrollment zone and limitations on choice-in numbers may help address additional need.

As with elementary, there will be a need for high school capacity, but planned capacity expansion at the Sandoval campus is designed to meet this need.

The Near Northeast section in this report (pgs. 49-59) shows that the other neighborhoods in the region are forecast to see significant enrollment declines. This may somewhat mitigate the need for additional seats in the region. Furthermore, future pressure on capacity may be mitigated by limiting seats available for choice-in students.
Overall, the district is over half way to meeting the Denver Plan 2020 goal.

GOAL #1: Great Schools in Every Neighborhood
By 2020, 80% of students will attend a high-performing (SPF blue or green) school in every region.

Elementary schools have made the most progress toward reaching the goal, with 55% of students attending a high-performing school. For elementary schools, the SW is closest to meeting the 2020 goal, while the NW has the greatest need for improvement.

Middle schools are also over half way to meeting the 2020 goal. However, middle schools in the NW and FNE are well below other regions, highlighting gaps in regional performance.

High schools are only one-quarter of the way to meeting the 2020 goal and significant improvements are needed for all regions at the high school level.

The discrepancies between regions and education levels highlight gaps in school performance within Denver Public Schools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FNE</th>
<th>NNE</th>
<th>CEN</th>
<th>NW</th>
<th>SW</th>
<th>SE</th>
<th>District Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elem. HP*</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle HP</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High HP</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall HP</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Percent of DPS students attending a school in the region that are enrolled at a high-performing (SPF blue or green) school located anywhere in DPS based on preliminary 2018 October Count data.

Elementary grades = ECE-5
Middle grades = 6-8
High grades = 9-12
Meets or exceeds Denver Plan goal
Lowest percentage of students at high-performing schools by education level
Highest percentage of students at high-performing schools by education level
Over half of district elementary school students are currently attending a high-performing school. The 7% attending a blue school are concentrated in the south-eastern part of Denver. Of these, Slavens has the highest enrollment, followed closely by Holm.

Green schools account for almost half of district elementary enrollment and are dispersed throughout the district, though there are concentrations in different regions. The south-western part of the district, for instance, has the greatest concentration of green schools. Yet, green schools in the Stapleton area have the highest elementary enrollment. In particular, Westerly Creek, Park Hill, and Bill Roberts rank the highest for elementary enrollment in green schools.

Yellow schools account for roughly 37% of elementary attendance and are most highly concentrated in the NW and lower Near Northeast areas. The 3 yellow schools with the highest enrollment are Brown, Place Bridge, and McMeen.

Only 8% of elementary students in the district are attending red or orange schools. There are pockets of these schools throughout the district, but the schools with the highest red or orange elementary enrollment are McGlone, Highline, and Shoemaker.

**Note:** Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.
Middle School SPF Summary

Middle schools are over halfway to meeting the Denver Plan 2020 goal. However, geographical disparities exist between high and low-performing middle schools.

Almost half of district middle school students are currently attending a high-performing school. Those attending a high-performing school are concentrated in the Grant Beacon, Morey, Hill, and Denver Green boundaries, where, not only are the boundary schools high-performing, but there also several high-performing non-boundary schools nearby. McAuliffe International has by far the highest enrollment, followed by Hill and DSST: Byers.

On the other hand, the upper half of the West Zone, as well as the Northwest, and Far Northeast Middle School Zones have considerably fewer high-performing schools and the Far Northeast and Northwest Zones have few options for attending a high-performing middle school nearby. In fact the upper half of the West Zone, as well as the Lake, Northwest, and Far Northeast Middle School Zones account for almost all of the 19% of middle school students that attend an orange or red school with DSST: Cole, DCIS at Montbello, and DCIS having the highest enrollments.

Finally, one-third of middle school students are attending yellow schools and are concentrated in the FNE and SE regions. The schools with the highest enrollment are Hamilton, Skinner, and Merrill.

Note: Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.
High School SPF Summary

District high school students have limited high-performing options, meaning that high school enrollment in high-performing schools is only 20%.

Seats in high-performing high schools are limited and account for 20% of district high school enrollment. Of the high-performing schools, most are non-boundary schools which require students to choice-in and are likely to fill up quickly due to high competition for seats. In addition, many of these non-boundary schools give priority to students in 8th grade that currently attend their school, making choice-in even harder. Of these schools, DSA, DSST: Stapleton, and DSST: GVR have the highest enrollment.

Yellow schools, on the other hand, account for 44% of high school enrollment and are distributed throughout Denver. The eastern regions of Denver (excluding the FNE) are dominated by yellow schools and have only a handful of non-boundary options. The yellow schools with the highest enrollment are East, George Washington, and Jefferson.

Red and orange schools account for 37% of high school enrollment. The western regions of Denver have the lowest performing boundary schools, but have numerous non-boundary school options. South, North, and Kennedy have the highest enrollment.

---

**Note:** Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.
Demographics & Performance

Demographic discrepancies in the percentage of students by race/ethnicity that attend a high-performing school highlight inequity across the district.

Utilization of ECE-12 Seats Based on SPF Rating and Demographics

Hispanic students make up 54% of ECE-12 students in Denver Public Schools and White students make up 25%. Equal distribution in schools of each SPF rating would be around 54% for Hispanic students and 25% of White students. This is not the case. Hispanic students attend red and yellow schools at a considerably higher rate than White students, while White students attending a blue school is more than double what would be expected in equal distribution. African American and other races and ethnicities, however, are closer to equal distribution, making up 13% and 8% respectively.

Percent of Race/Ethnicity by SPF ECE-12 Enrollment

54% of all White students attending DPS attend a high-performing school compared to 40% of Hispanic students, 38% of African American students, and 46% of students of other races and ethnicities.
Demographics Over Time

The percent of FRL students in DPS has steadily decreased since 2012 and this trend is likely to continue going forward as Denver continues to change.

Over the last 5 years, the percentage of FRL students as a proportion of the total student population at DPS has decreased steadily. The 5 percentage point drop between 2014 and 2018 is likely a result of increased housing prices and economic growth throughout the city. The larger decrease between 2017 and 2018 is partially contributable to a policy change last school year that determined that all students will be provided with a hot lunch regardless of their FRL status or their ability to pay. This has likely disincentivized students and parents from applying for FRL status.

As the city has changed, the share of White students in the district has increased by 3 percentage points since 2014. Hispanic students, on the other hand, have decreased by 3 percentage points while the share of African American students and students of other race/ethnicities has remained relatively stable.
Overall School Choice participation rates have remained steady since last year and remain at all-time highs since DPS implemented a unified choice system.

Overall participation rates and kindergarten participation rates were steady from 2017 to 2018.

6th grade participation fell 3 percentage points from last year.

At the 9th grade level, the participation rate increased this year by 3 percentage points.

The dynamics driving these changes are being explored.
Choice participation rates are highest among White students and non-ELL students.

The chart to the left shows the percentage of students in transition grades (incoming K, 6th, and 9th graders) that participated in Round 1 of School Choice for the 2018-2019 school year based on the student’s race/ethnicity. White students participated in Choice at a considerably higher rate than any other race/ethnicity. Hispanic, African American, and students of other races/ethnicities, though, still had more than four-fifth of students participate. The Choice office will continue to pro-actively identify strategies that aim to address barriers and increase participation rates among all families to the high levels seen among white families.

The chart to the left shows the percentage of students in transition grades (incoming K, 6th, and 9th graders) that participated in Round 1 of School Choice for the 2018-2019 school year based on the student’s language status. ELL students participated in Choice at a lower rate than non-ELL students for this school year. This disparity indicates the existence of some barrier to Choice for ELL students.
School Choice Match Rates

Overall, 81% of participating DPS students received their top choice school in transition grades K, 6, 9.

First choice match rates have increased for 6th and 9th grade transition students, but have decreased for kindergarten transition students.

Kindergarten first choice match rates are lower in part due to an increased number of participants and to administrative changes in the way the pre-school students in DPS programs were assigned kindergarten seats. The opening of 3 new elementary zones this year also contributed by increasing competition for popular schools. Match rates at this level will be monitored to determine if the decrease this year was driven primarily by the changes mentioned here or if there are behavioral changes driving the decrease as well.

6th grade first choice match rate increases are largely attributable to the Far Northeast and West Middle School Zones. Match rates in the Far Northeast zone increased significantly with the introduction of a second DSST at the Noel campus. In the West zone, match rates have been increasing as lower performing schools have closed and new schools have either been opened or have reached full build out.
87% of blue and green transition seats were filled this year, while 63% of orange and red transition seats were filled.

The average capacity utilization rate in the district is 83%. Based on this, if School Choice had no effect on actual student placement, each SPF rating would have around 83% utilization. However, blue and green schools are utilized at 87% while orange and red are only 63% utilized. This equates to shifting additional students in transition grades to higher-performing schools than they could be expected to attended otherwise.

*The chart above reflects 2017 SPF data because this is what 2017 School Choice participants used in their research and evaluation process.*
Just over half of seat offers in the district are at a high-performing school, meaning that close to half of the seats available in the district are at low-performing schools. While no seats at any rating are 100% utilized, the high-performing seats are more highly utilized than the low. Nevertheless, low-performing seats are utilized and, since not all schools are high-performing, many students must attend a low-performing school.

On the demand side, 66% of all Round 1 School Choice participants in transition grades (incoming Kindergarten, 6th, and 9th) in 2017 selected a high-performing school as their 1st choice. Over 80% of these students were offered a seat at their first choice, but competition for popular schools led to some students attending a lower performing school. On the other hand, 31% of students chose a low-performing school as their first choice, highlighting the importance of non-SPF factors in the decision making process.

*The chart above reflects 2017 SPF data because this is what 2017 School Choice participants used in their research and evaluation process and this chart reflects the choices that students made.*
Summary of Key Insights by Region

The Far Northeast and Near Northeast are both forecast to see a mix of high enrollment growth and steep enrollment declines. Both areas are likely to need additional capacity.

**Far Northeast**
- Capacity constraints at elementary and middle school levels
- Performance gaps particularly pronounced at middle school level
- High kindergarten and 6th grade match rates, but relatively low 9th grade match rates
- High enrollment growth in DIA and Gateway and considerable declines in Montbello

**Capacity:** Capacity has been the tightest in the city at all grade levels over the past 5 years, primarily driven by new housing and low choice-out rates. The 2016 bond program includes roughly 1,500 seats of capacity for new schools at each grade level. Despite this, additional capacity will be needed at the elementary school level and will likely be necessary at the middle school level as well.

**Performance:** High-performing elementary schools are numerous, but geographical performance gaps and disparate popularity exist in the availability of high-performing options.

**Match Rates:** Match Rates are high at the elementary and middle school levels, but are lower at the high school level due to an imbalance of popularity among schools in the region.

**Forecast:** Enrollment declines in Montbello will be balanced by growth in the Gateway and DIA areas. Growth possibilities are highly variable.

**Near Northeast**
- Disparate capacity constraints
- Highest performing region in the city at all grade levels
- Lower match rates for kindergarten and 6th due to competition for popular schools
- High growth in Stapleton, but declining or stagnant enrollment in the rest of the region

**Capacity:** The region has disparate capacity constraints. Park Hill has hundreds of open seats, particularly at the elementary level, while Stapleton is driving much of the growth in the city. A new middle school in north Stapleton will accommodate MS growth, while expansion at the Sandoval campus will support HS growth.

**Performance:** This region has made the most progress toward meeting the Denver Plan 2020 goal of 80% of students in high-performing seats

**Match Rates:** Several popular schools in the region create high demand and lower match rates in the region.

**Forecast:** There will be continued growth in Stapleton, but potential enrollment declines in North Park Hill.
Summary of Key Insights by Region

Both the Central and Northwest regions will continue to experience enrollment declines. Significant performance gaps persist in both regions.

Central
- Surplus capacity at all grade levels
- Performance gaps exist at ES and MS levels. HS are primarily low performing this year
- Match rates are high since there are fewer students than seats
- Enrollment declines forecast to continue leading to more empty capacity at all grade levels

Capacity: Surplus will continue to be the norm in this region as enrollment declines at all grade levels due to rising housing costs and declining birth rates. School budgets are being impacted by low enrollment, creating risks to several schools in the region.

Performance: Academic gaps exist at all levels.

Match Rates: First choice match rates are among the highest in the city due to the surplus of seats at all grade levels.

Forecast: Continued enrollment declines in the region are likely to impact schools at all grade levels.

Northwest
- Excess capacity at all grade levels except at the most in-demand programs
- Large performance gaps at all levels
- Relatively low match rates at kindergarten, but high for 6th and 9th
- Enrollment declines to continue, but at a slower pace

Capacity: Surpluses will remain as enrollment continues to decline due to rising housing costs. Surpluses are the largest at the elementary level and school budgets will continue to be impacted as a result.

Performance: Performance gaps exist at all education levels in this region.

Match Rates: Kindergarten match rates are comparatively low due to competition for schools. 6th and 9th grade match rates are relatively high due to enrollment zones and excess capacity.

Forecast: Enrollment declines will continue in this region but at a slower pace than in previous years and with some areas starting to stabilize as DPS schools become more popular with families living in the region.
Summary of Key Insights by Region

The Southwest region is forecast to have enrollment declines, while the Southeast region will have marginal growth. Elementary school performance is high in both regions, but both have performance gaps at the high school levels.

Southwest
- Excess capacity likely in coming years
- Robust choice of high-performing elementary schools but performance gaps at MS and HS
- Match rates high at all levels
- Forecast enrollment declines

Capacity: Current capacity is sufficient to meet enrollment needs, but there may be surplus capacity in the future due to forecast enrollment declines.

Performance: Overall performance of elementary schools is among the highest in the district. However, significant performance gaps still exist at the middle and high school levels.

Match Rates: Match rates are high at all levels. However, inequities exist between 6-12 schools and large comprehensive high schools for students who arrive in the middle of the year in the region.

Forecast: Enrollment declines at all levels, with particularly large declines at elementary and middle school due to changing demographics and increased housing costs in the region. Enrollment and budgetary impacts should be closely monitored in this region.

Southeast
- Forecast enrollment growth, but existing capacity should meet demand
- High-performing ES and MS schools, but performance gap at HS level
- Comparatively low kindergarten and 6th grade match rates and high 9th grade match rates
- Marginal enrollment growth forecast

Capacity: There is adequate capacity in the region, but most schools have a high utilization rate due to their attractiveness to choice families.

Performance: There are numerous high-performing options at elementary level and middle school levels. However, significant performance gaps still exist at the high school level.

Match Rates: Match rates are relatively low at kindergarten and 6th grade due to disparate popularity and limited seats. 9th grade match rates are high, due to desirability of large high schools.

Forecast: Enrollment is forecast to decline at the elementary level, but there will be some enrollment growth at the middle and high school levels, making this one of only two regions in the city that is forecasted to grow by 2023. Growth is due to the turnover of older homes to younger families and the affordability of rental units in some parts of the region.
Though overall enrollment in the FNE is forecast to have only slight declines by 2023, there will be substantial growth in some areas of the region and considerable declines in others.

The FNE has been the fastest growing region in recent history. However, growth is forecast to stall between 2018 and 2023. While the Gateway and DIA neighborhoods are forecast to see significant growth, declines in the Montbello and Green Valley Ranch neighborhoods will keep the region from growing overall.

However, as seen in pages 17-20 of this report, residential development in this region is uncertain, making the possibilities for future enrollment highly variable. The volume and type of development will determine if the region eventually exceeds capacity or has excess capacity. Development trends will need to be monitored closely in order to determine the appropriate planning strategies for this region.
The need for capacity in the FNE will be highly variable among the different neighborhoods in the FNE region.

### Forecast and Capacity Comparison

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<th>2018</th>
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<th>2023</th>
<th>Forecast resident students</th>
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Though the forecast above shows minimal excess capacity, the mixed growth in the region means that there will likely be excess capacity in some areas (Montbello) and strained capacity in other areas (DIA & Gateway). Nevertheless, current capacity in the region is already stressed at 95% utilization. The zones in the region may be able to distribute students throughout the region, making use of excess capacity in Montbello. However, students may not be willing to choice-into schools with excess capacity. Because of this uncertainty, development in the DIA & Gateway areas is being closely monitored to determine when extra capacity will be necessary.
The demographic landscape in the FNE has shifted slightly in the last five years. The forecast mix of growth and decline may cause more significant shifts in the next five years.

The share of Hispanic students in the FNE has increased since 2014. The 3 percentage point increase represents roughly 1,200 students. The proportion of students of other races and ethnicities has also increased, by 2 percentage points. The share of African American students, on the other hand, has been consistently declining, resulting in a loss of around 450 students.

The percentage of FRL students in the region has remained relatively stable during the past 5 years.
Fifty-four percent of elementary school students in the FNE are attending a high-performing school this year.

While the FNE does not have any blue elementary schools, the region has a broad geographical distribution of green schools, which account for just under two-thirds of all elementary schools in the region and 54% of all students. This is the same as the district average for elementary schools and is almost three-fourths of the way to meeting the Denver Plan 2020 goal.

The five yellow schools in the region account for 29% of students, while 17% of elementary students in the region attend one of the three orange and red schools.

Overall, 46% of students are concentrated in 8 low-performing schools, while 54% are distributed among 11 high-performing schools.

**Note:** Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.
Twenty-four percent of middle school students in the FNE are attending a high-performing school this year.

Only 24% of FNE middle school students are attending a high-performing school this year. This is 12 percentage points below the district average and 56 percentage points from the Denver Plan 2020 goal.

The majority of students in the FNE are attending a low-performing school this year. The red and orange schools are concentrated in the Montbello area, and account for 36% of FNE middle school enrollment. The yellow are concentrated in the Gateway-Green Valley Ranch area, and also account for 36% of FNE middle school enrollment.

FNE middle schools have the second highest percentage of students attending low-performing schools in Denver, after the NW. However, the performance gap may be more restricting in the FNE as the region is somewhat isolated.

*Note: Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.*
Far Northeast: High School Performance

Thirty-three percent of high school students in the FNE are attending a high-performing school this year.

Only one-third of FNE high school students are attending a high-performing school this year. This is the second highest percentage in the district and is 13 percentage points above the district average. Yet it is still 47 percentage points away from the 80% goal of the Denver Plan 2020.

For other high school students in the region, around a quarter are in yellow schools and 41% are in red and orange schools.

Note: Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.
Far Northeast: School Choice

Overall match rates for the FNE region are 2 percentage points higher than the district average.

At the kindergarten level, 1st choice match rates are 7 percentage points above the district average and 1st and 2nd choice match rates combined are 6 percentage points higher than the district average. The recent implementation of two additional elementary enrollment zones in this region is the primary cause of the high match rates.

At the 6th grade level, 1st choice match rates are 2 percentage points lower than the district average, but 1st and 2nd choice match rates combined are 4 percentage points higher. The higher match rates this year are largely due to the opening of DSST: Noel, a popular option which extended capacity.

Finally, at the 9th grade level, 1st choice match rates are 12 percentage points lower than the district average and still 8 percentage points lower when 2nd choice match rates are considered. For high schools in the FNE there is significant disparity in popularity among schools. For example, DSST: GVR has the largest waitlist in the city, meaning that many students who chose DSST: GVR as their first choice were not able to get in.
Roughly two-thirds of students participating in choice-in the FNE chose a high-performing school as their first choice this year.

Almost two-thirds of transition students in the FNE chose blue or green school as their first choice. However, 10% of students chose a red or orange school as their first choice, indicating that families look to factors beyond SPF in making their school choices.

At the kindergarten level, 13% of choice students wish to attend a blue school, meaning they choice-out of the boundary if they are accepted and decide to attend. Green and yellow schools, however, are plentiful in the region. So, elementary students choosing green or yellow schools as their first choice have a good chance of being accepted.

For 6th grade, as well, most students chose a green school as their first choice.

For 9th grade, 78% of choice participants wish to attend a green or blue school. Match rates at the 9th grade level show that only 68% of students were accepted at their 1st choice school, meaning, unless they leave the region, some students end up attending a low-performing school in the region.

**Note:** The chart above reflects 2017 SPF data because this is what 2017 School Choice participants used in their research and evaluation process. This does not incorporate SPF changes this year. If a school was green in 2017 and yellow in 2018, the choice participant is classified as choosing a green school.
Regional choice-out rates in the FNE are among the lowest in the district.

Regional choice-out rates for elementary students are similar to those for other regions. However, the percentage of students choosing to choice-out of their boundary or zone into another school in the region is comparatively high. This is partially driven by the combination of zones and boundaries within the region. Other possible factors are the desire to attend one of the non-boundary schools in the region or the desire to attend a school that is closer than the boundary school or higher-performing.

The existence of middle and high school zones across the entire FNE region largely account for the comparatively small choice-out rates at the middle and high school levels. The difference between middle and high school rates is due to the draw of popular high schools outside of the region, namely Northfield and East, and the fact that it is easier for high school students to travel farther.
Far Northeast: Regional Choice-In

The FNE does not attract more than 7% of its students at any level from other regions.

The proportion of students choosing into the FNE region from another region does not exceed 7% at any education level and is the lowest in the district. Unlike other regions, the FNE only attracts students from central and eastern sections of the city. This may be partially due to travel distance and partially due to the popularity of schools in nearby regions.

Special programming in the FNE appeals to some students from the eastern half of the district. Slightly higher inflows (50-100 students) from Stapleton and the northern Central region may stem from the capacity pressures in Stapleton and from the fact that students in the northern parts of these areas could commute to the FNE without having to cross I-70.

Where do choice-in Students Come From?

Where do choice-in Students Come From?

Choice-in Behavior by Education Level

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## Far Northeast Summary

### CAPACITY

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<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECENT ACTIONS</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enrollment declines in Montbello will be balanced by growth in the Gateway and DIA areas. Growth possibilities are highly variable, but additional capacity will be needed at the elementary school level and will likely be necessary at the middle school level as well.</td>
<td>2016 bond program included 1,500 seats at the Groff and Gateway campuses. Two new elementary zones were implemented in 2018.</td>
<td>Closely monitor enrollment and residential development to determine timing for additional capacity since elementary and middle school capacity will continue to be strained as residential development continues. Take steps to lay groundwork for new elementary school capacity in the next 3 to 5 years.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PERFORMANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECENT ACTIONS</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High-performing elementary schools are numerous, but geographical performance gaps and disparate popularity exist in the availability of high-performing options.</td>
<td>The recent opening of KIPP and DSST: Noel should drive improved performance in the region.</td>
<td>While capacity needs are addressed, continued improvement of school performance in the area is needed to meet the Denver Plan 2020 goals. New school openings along with moving existing schools into SPF blue or green will be necessary to meet goals.</td>
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</table>

### SCHOOL CHOICE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECENT ACTIONS</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There are few high-performing middle and high school options. Most middle schoolers choose to stay in the region regardless, driving up match rates. High schoolers are more likely to try to leave, resulting in lower match rates. Numerous high-performing elementary schools allow for high match rates.</td>
<td>KIPP and STRIVE have opened high schools to serve growth and have helped HS match rates. The opening of DSST Noel MS in 2018 also contributed to improved match rates this year.</td>
<td>Investigate and monitor the lower popularity of Montbello campus schools and how that impacts school performance to better balance appeal across the region against newer facilities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Near Northeast: Enrollment Forecast

Growth in Stapleton will continue to drive enrollment gains in the region. However declines in the rest of the region will mitigate some of the region’s overall growth.

Overall, the NNE is forecast to have the highest growth in Denver. In fact, it is one of only two regions (NNE & SE) forecast to grow overall by 2023. However, the enrollment changes are incongruent, with Stapleton experiencing large growth while the Park Hill, Hilltop, and Lowry neighborhoods have sizable declines.

Declines will be seen at the elementary level, and growth will be seen primarily at the high school level as the recent large cohorts of elementary and middle school students move into high school. The growth in high school enrollment is driven mostly by Stapleton.
Near Northeast: Capacity

Strains on capacity in Stapleton should be alleviated by 2016 bond projects, while low enrollment in North Park Hill schools should be closely monitored.

The recent addition of Northfield High School and Inspire Elementary have boosted capacity in the NNE. Because of this, the region currently has adequate capacity with some room for choice-in students. However, the forecast shows that growth in the middle and high school levels will stress or exceed current capacity by 2023.

To prevent this, a new middle school north of I-70 will open in 2019 and 1,000 new seats will be added at Sandoval.

In the Park Hill area, though, several schools are currently operating at under 60% utilization, which is impacting performance and choice behavior in the area. Due to the bifurcation of growth and under-enrollment between Park Hill and Stapleton, capacity and growth in this area should continue to be closely monitored.
Recent development in the NNE has led to significant demographic changes during the past 5 years.

The NNE has been rapidly developing. Housing costs have increased and affluent families have moved into new residential developments. As a result, the demographics of this region have been shifting.

The proportion and number of White students has increased significantly, with the 5 percentage point change equating to roughly 2,000 students. The number of African American and Hispanic students has increased by around 20 and 250, respectively, but their proportions have declined or stayed flat as the population has increased.

The increase in affluent families combined with a new lunch provision policy* has resulted in the steepest FRL percentage point decrease in the district at 8 percentage points between 2014 and 2018.

*The policy change determined that all students will be provided with a hot lunch regardless of their FRL status or their ability to pay. This provides disincentive for students and parents to apply for FRL status.
Near Northeast: Elementary School Performance

Fifty-six percent of elementary school students in the NNE are attending a high-performing school this year.

About half of the schools in the NNE region are high-performing and are distributed throughout the region, except for the northern Stapleton area where disparity exists. However, the Stapleton Elementary Enrollment Zone spans the northern and southern halves of Stapleton, opening up more high-performing options for students. This access allows more than half of elementary students to attend a high-performing school. This is almost three-fourths of the way to the Denver Plan 2020 goal and is the same as the district average.

Yellow schools are also distributed throughout the region and make up about two-fifths of the schools in the region and account for the same proportion of enrollment. Meanwhile, the three red and orange schools have 7% of enrollment.

Note: Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.
Near Northeast: Middle School Performance

Eighty-eight percent of middle school students in the NNE are attending a high-performing school this year.

The NNE is the only region in the district where middle school enrollment has exceeded the Denver Plan 2020 goal of 80% of students in high-performing schools and exceeds the district average by 40 percentage points. Because almost all of the schools in the region are high-performing, yellow schools account for only 6% of enrollment, while orange also account for 6%. There are no red middle school seats in the NNE.

Only two of the schools in this region are low-performing and they are located near high-performing options, meaning that students residing in the NNE have a robust selection of high-performing middle schools.

Note: Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.
Near Northeast: High School Performance

Forty-three percent of high school students in the NNE are attending a high-performing school this year.

43% of NNE high school enrollment is at high-performing schools. This is over half way to the Denver Plan 2020 goal and 23 percentage points above the district average.

Yellow schools account for the remaining 57% of NNE high school enrollment. There are no orange or red high schools in the NNE.

The high proportion of high school students attending yellow schools is due to the fact that high-performing schools in the region are smaller non-boundary schools that cannot offer as many seats as the large boundary high schools.

Note: Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.
Match rates for Kindergarten in this region are 82%, lower than the district average of 88%. Yet, this may result from the existence of an elementary enrollment zone in this region, which is rare in the district. Due to the distribution of housing units and the capacity of the different elementary schools in Stapleton, parents are sometimes unable to get into their 1st choice elementary school.

First choice match rates for 6th and 9th grades in the NNE are 81% and 78% respectively, making them slightly lower than the district averages of 83% and 80%. For 6th grade, the second choice match rate is the same as the district average. The 9th grade second choice match rate, on the other hand, is 3 percentage points higher than the district average, making the overall 9th grade match rate higher than the 93% for the district overall.

The lower 1st choice match rates for 6th and 9th grade likely stem from the high desirability of some of the more popular schools in the area. This means that demand for these particular schools is higher than capacity.
Near Northeast: SPF & School Choice

Most students in the NNE chose a green school as their first choice.

Three quarters of all transition grade students that reside in this region and participated in School Choice selected a high-performing school as their 1st choice.

Because there are many high-performing schools in the region, students not getting their first choice still have a good chance of attending a green school. The number of high-performing options means choice-out rates are relatively low.

Note: The chart above reflects 2017 SPF data because this is what 2017 School Choice participants used in their research and evaluation process. This does not incorporate SPF changes this year. If a school was green in 2017 and yellow in 2018, the choice participant is classified as choosing a green school.
There is little desire to choice-out of the NNE at the elementary and middle school levels. The number of high-performing options at the elementary and middle school levels leave little desire to choice-out of the region. In fact, the choice-out rates at these levels are among the lowest in the district.

At the high school level, however, the percentage of students choosing out of the region is twice as high as the elementary and middle school levels. This is partially driven by the fact that many high school students in the NNE region actually live in the East high school boundary or are closer to East than to any high school in the NNE region. South, one of the more popular large high schools, also draws a large proportion of NNE high school choice-out students.
Near Northeast: Regional Choice-In

High-performing schools in the NNE attract students from all over the district. The FNE and SE regions and the northern part of the CEN region have the most students choosing into the NNE.

Students from almost every area of Denver choosing into schools in the NNE. However, the FNE, CEN, and SE regions are the primary contributors. These regions in particular have concentrations of low-performing schools near the regional boundary which is likely driving students in these areas to seek better options. This phenomenon is most pronounced at the high school level, which may contribute to the higher high school choice-in rates.

Where do choice-in Students Come From?

Choice-in Behavior by Education Level

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<tr>
<td>ES</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Attend Boundary School  | Choice Into Another School in Region  | Choice Into Region
Near Northeast: Summary

### CAPACITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECENT ACTIONS</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The region has disparate capacity constraints. Park Hill has hundreds of open seats, particularly at the elementary level, while Stapleton is driving much of the growth in the city.</td>
<td>Inspire moved to its permanent home at The Park Street Campus this year, which will support ES growth in Stapleton, while the opening of a new middle school in north Stapleton will accommodate MS growth. Expansion of the Sandoval Campus will support HS growth.</td>
<td>Monitor the level of over-supply in Park Hill and create school options that reduce choice-out rates and alleviate pressure in Stapleton. Middle and high school growth should be closely monitored to ensure there is enough capacity for 2020 and beyond.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PERFORMANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECENT ACTIONS</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This region has made the most progress toward meeting the Denver Plan 2020 goal of 80% of students in high-performing seats.</td>
<td>A Call for New Quality Schools was issued for a new high-performing middle school to open in north Stapleton.</td>
<td>While there is adequate supply of high-performing, lower performing elementary schools in Park Hill are struggling with declining school age population and performance. An improvement in performance at GW would push this region into meeting the Denver Plan goals at all grade levels.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SCHOOL CHOICE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECENT ACTIONS</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Several popular schools in the region create high demand and lower match rates in the region.</td>
<td>McAuliffe was expanded to increase the access to one of the two highest demand schools in the city. A second campus at Manual High school was opened last year.</td>
<td>Monitor choice behavior that is contributing to under-enrollment at several Park Hill area elementary schools. Monitor middle school choice behavior with new opening of middle school in 2019.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Central: Enrollment Forecast

Significant enrollment declines are forecast in this region due to rising housing costs and changing demographics of residents.

The CEN region is forecast to have the largest percent decrease in enrollment of any region in the district (-15%). Elementary enrollment will be hit the hardest by 2023, but the rate of decrease will likely speed up beyond 2023 as recent larger cohorts graduate and are replaced by smaller cohorts.

This region is being hit particularly hard by rising housing costs and an out-migration of residents. While thousands of residential units are being constructed in this area, these units yield very few students as they are mostly small apartments marketed toward Millennials and empty-nesters.

![Bar graph showing change in number of students from 2018 to 2023](image.png)
The CEN region has the highest surplus of available seats in the district and further enrollment declines will increase this surplus.

Though the 2023 forecast seat surplus is high, the two high schools that are located in the Central region, East and Manual, have boundaries that include students living in the Near Northeast region. Thus, the actual surplus will likely be smaller due to those seats filling from boundary students in the neighboring region. Further, many schools in the region are pathways schools or city-wide programs where capacity is meant for students throughout the district. East, because of its popularity, also draws students from throughout the district. The combined choice-in enrollment of East, pathways, and city wide programs amounts to approximately 18% of overall capacity in the region.

The surplus of seats at elementary is more concerning due to fewer mitigating factors and the impact on smaller school budgets. With enrollment forecast to decrease further by 2023, there may be a need for additional consolidation of programs to create more viable options. The seat surplus in this region is the second highest of any region and will require close monitoring of enrollment trends, performance, and capacity going forward.
Shifting residential trends in the CEN region have resulted in significant demographic changes.

Rising housing costs and the construction of new residential units marketed toward millennials and empty-nesters has caused student populations in the CEN region to shift to a higher proportion of affluent students. In addition, the recent lunch provision policy change* has likely disincentivized students and parents from applying for FRL status. Combined, these factors have resulted in an 8 percentage point decrease in the percentage of FRL students in this region.

Since 2014, the share of White students has increased by 6 percentage points and over 300 students. The Hispanic proportion has decreased by 6 percentage points, or roughly 800 students, while the proportion of African American students has remained flat.

*The policy change determined that all students will be provided with a hot lunch regardless of their FRL status or ability to pay.
Central: Elementary School Performance

Fifty-two percent of elementary school students in the CEN region are attending a high-performing school this year.

Just under half of elementary schools in the CEN region are high-performing schools and they account for half of elementary enrollment in the region. This is 6 percentage points lower than the district average and is the second lowest in the district. Nevertheless, it is still well over half way to the Denver Plan 2020 goal of 80%

The region has almost as many yellow schools as blue and green, but they account for 31% of enrollment rather than half. The two orange schools in the region have the remaining 17% of elementary enrollment.

The geographical distribution of schools and the existence of the Greater Five Points Elementary School Zone leads to robust high-performing options for elementary students in the CEN region.

**SPF of Elementary Schools Over Time**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bromwell</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DDES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden Place</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrington</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polaris</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REACH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swansea</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teller</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPrep - Arapahoe</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPrep - Steele</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyatt</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SPF of K-8 Schools Over Time**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DLS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dora Moore</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whittier</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.
Central: Middle School Performance

Fifty-three percent of middle school students in the CEN region are attending a high-performing school this year.

The percent of students in the CEN region attending a high-performing school just over half. At 53% it is 7 percentage points above the district average and 27 percentage points from meeting the Denver Plan 2020 goal.

The remaining half is split almost equally between yellow and red schools.

Geographically, the northern part of the CEN region has only low-performing middle schools, while the southern part has predominately high-performing schools. However, the existence of the Near Northeast Middle School Zone opens up availability to high-performing schools for students in the northern part of the region.

**Note:** Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.
Central: High School Performance

Eight percent of high school students in the CEN region are attending a high-performing school this year.

There is currently only one high-performing high school in the CEN region, meaning that only 8% of students in this region attend a high-performing school. This is the lowest percentage in the district (same as NW) and is 12 percentage points below average and only 10% of the way to the Denver Plan goal.

The region is dominated by yellow schools, which account for 82% of high school enrollment in the region. Many of these schools are popular (like East) or city-wide programs. These schools are desirable regardless of SPF rating.

The red and orange schools in the region have just 10% of high school enrollment.

Note: Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.
Overall match rates in the CEN region are the same as the district average.

First choice match rates in the CEN region all exceed the district average. Kindergarten 1st choice match rates are 1 percentage point higher, while 6th and 9th are 3 and 13 percentage points higher, respectively. The higher rates are likely due to a surplus of seats across the region. However, second choice match rates are 3, 3, and 7 percentage points below the district averages, respectively, which causes kindergarten and 6th grade to be on par with the district average. 9th grade overall match rates are still 6 percentage points higher than the district average.

At the elementary and middle school levels many students are likely trying to compete for the high-performing schools in the region. The excess capacity in the region probably allows the high-performing schools to accept a large percentage of students initially, but their room may be limited by the second round of choice. At the high school level, only 300 students participated in choice, meaning that many students wish to default to their boundary school. There was probably little competition for students’ first choices.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>1st Choice Match Rate</th>
<th>2nd Choice Match Rate</th>
<th>Participation Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinder, 6th, and 9th</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>1st Choice Match Rate</th>
<th>2nd Choice Match Rate</th>
<th>Participation Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinder, 6th, and 9th</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Over half of students in the CEN region wish to attend a high-performing school. However, over a third chose a yellow school as their first choice.

In the CEN region, most transition students desire to attend a green or yellow school. At the time of choice, there were only two blue schools in the region, meaning that attending a blue school at other levels would require leaving the region. The desire to attend a green school is highest overall.

Nevertheless, the percentage of first choice yellow schools is the second highest in the region. There are some probable drivers. First, many yellow schools are popular or city-wide, and, so, are desirable regardless of SPF rating. Second, despite a school being yellow this year, many students may wish to continue attending the same school as other students that they have been in school with. Third, students may wish to attend the school that is closest to them. In short, there are many factors influencing the choice of a school.

Note: The chart above reflects 2017 SPF data because this is what 2017 School Choice participants used in their research and evaluation process. This does not incorporate SPF changes this year. If a school was green in 2017 and yellow in 2018, the choice participant is classified as choosing a green school.
The existence of zones at the middle and high school level provide access to the high-performing schools in the region.

Few elementary and high school students choose to choice-out due to the number and broad distribution of high-performing schools. This allows students to choice-into high-performing schools without leaving the region, which almost half of elementary students in the region choose to do.

At the high school level, despite the limited number of high-performing options, 75% of students choose to stay in the region. This is likely due to the presence of East, a popular, high-demand school. It is probable that many students are choosing out of the Manual or Washington boundaries in the region to attend East.

The existence of a middle school zone in this region means that all middle school students have access to a high-performing school, leading to over half of students choosing to attend within the zone. The proximity of Morey and Dora Moore (in the region, but not in the zone) likely draws some students. In the north-western part of the region, there are students who live in the CEN region, but are actually part of the NW middle school zone, which probably accounts for the higher rates of middle school students choosing out of the region.
Boundary overlap between regions drive much of the choice-in behavior in the CEN region.

The largest number of students choosing into the CEN region are from the NNE. The primary driver of this is probably that a large proportion of high school students residing the NNE are actually part of East’s boundary. Pathways and city-wide programs in the CEN region also enroll middle and high school students from throughout the district.

At the middle school level as well, there are several boundaries or zones in the SE and NW regions whose boundaries overlap with the CEN region. There is some overlap at the elementary school level as well.

In addition, the south-eastern parts of the NW region have very few high-performing options, meaning that, particularly at the elementary and middle school levels, students may try to choice-into better performing schools in the CEN region. Polaris elementary, a city-wide program, also attracts many students from throughout the district.
### CAPACITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECENT ACTIONS</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This region has decreasing enrollment at all grade levels, driven by housing price increases and birth declines. Enrollment reductions are forecast to continue through 2023, and will be most pronounced at the elementary level.</td>
<td>McAuliffe at Manual opened in 2016 to provide additional high-performing middle school seats in the area, as well as to offer a feeder MS option for Manual.</td>
<td>Continue to closely monitor the surplus of seats at all school levels. School budgets will be negatively impacted by continued declines and could experience gaps in the ability to fund core programs, particularly at the elementary level. Evaluate options for strategically responding to declining enrollment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PERFORMANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Focus on academic gaps that exist at the elementary and middle school levels, and focus on high school performance overall.</td>
<td>Gilpin Montessori was closed last year as a result of the School Performance Compact. Venture Prep High School and Wyatt Middle School closed in 2018</td>
<td>Continue to monitor performance and enrollment at all schools, particularly at the elementary level, and consider consolidation to try to create more sustainable programs that can fund the services needed to lead to higher performance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SCHOOL CHOICE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECENT ACTIONS</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First choice match rates are among the highest in the city due to the surplus of seats at all grade levels.</td>
<td>An enrollment zone was implemented in 2018 to allow greater access to all schools in the region.</td>
<td>Continue to monitor choice behavior and its impact on enrollment and performance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Northwest: Enrollment Forecast

Enrollment declines will continue in the NW region, but the rate of decline will be comparatively slow.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E-5th</td>
<td>5,766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th-8th</td>
<td>2,065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th-12th</td>
<td>2,368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-12</td>
<td>9,242</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enrollment is forecast to continue to decline in this region, though the declines will not be as significant as the forecast declines in other regions. In fact, the percent decline in the NW will be notably smaller than the CEN and SW regions.

Northwest Denver was one of the earliest areas of the city to experience rapid housing cost increase and the student population is starting to stabilize. The neighborhoods of the greatest concern from an enrollment perspective going forward in this region are Sunnyside and West Colfax, which are now starting to experience larger enrollment declines due to increased housing costs and the development of multi-family units with lower student yields.
Northwest: Capacity

Significant excess capacity exists in the region due to declining enrollment, but choice movement, city-wide options, and overlapping zones fill some of this surplus.

Forecast and Capacity Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current resident students</td>
<td>5,766</td>
<td>8,351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-5th</td>
<td>2,368</td>
<td>4,139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th-8th</td>
<td>2,065</td>
<td>1,756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th-12th</td>
<td>1,067</td>
<td>2,456</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As a result of 15 years of declining enrollment in Northwest Denver, capacity is forecast to be nearly twice as high as the number of students in the region in 2023, meaning existing capacity at area schools is more than adequate to meet future demands. The net choice-in rate for this region is approximately 20%, which fills some of the surplus seats.

There is disparate popularity at both the elementary and middle school levels, however. Because of this, there are some schools at capacity while others have a large surplus of seats. This could hurt match rates going forward. Further, several of the specialized choice options in the region are very popular, with high demand and long waitlists, while some of the district-run options are operating significantly under-capacity. In addition, roughly 5% of seats in the region are seats in city-wide or Pathways programs that are filled by students from other regions. Finally, the West campus has roughly 2,000 seats of capacity, which is located in the Northwest region, though students primarily reside in the SW, partially explaining why the reported surplus of seats is much larger than actually exists today.
Increased housing costs and growth in the share of households without children has prompted demographic change in the NW.

Over the last 5 years, the percentage of FRL students as a proportion of the total student population in the Northwest region has decreased 8 percentage points. This is likely due to increased housing costs in the region. In addition, the recent lunch provision policy change* has likely disincentivized students and parents from applying for FRL status.

As in the CEN and NNE regions, the White population has been increasing while the Hispanic population has been decreasing. The 5 percentage point increase in the White share of the student population equates to roughly 450 students, while the 8 percentage point decrease in the Hispanic proportion of students represents close to 1,200 students. Unlike the CEN and NNE regions, however, the share of African American students has increased by 1 percentage point, or about 100 students.

*The policy change determined that all students will be provided with a hot lunch regardless of their FRL status or ability to pay.
Twenty-two percent of elementary school students in the NW region are attending a high-performing school this year.

Only 1 in 5 elementary students in the region is attending a high-performing school. This is only a quarter of the way to the Denver Plan 2020 goal and 23 percentage points below the district average.

Yellow schools in the NW, on the other hand, are abundant and account for 78% of NW elementary enrollment. There are no red or orange elementary schools in the NW.

Several yellow elementary schools in the region are popular while high-performing Trevista is under-enrolled. This highlights the fact that there are many factors besides SPF that influence the choice of a school.

### SPF of Elementary Schools Over Time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beach Court</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTD at Greenlee</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centennial</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheltenham</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colfax</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbian</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cowell</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCIS Fairmont</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eagleton</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edison</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairview</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>RMP: Berkeley</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandoval</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trevista</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valdez</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SPF of K-8 Schools Over Time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bryant Webster</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.
Northwest: Middle School Performance

Six percent of middle school students in the NW region are attending a high-performing school this year.

The percentage of middle school students attending a high-performing school is by far the lowest in the district. In fact, it is 40 percentage points below the district average and just under one-tenth of the way to meeting the Denver Plan 2020 goal. There is currently only one high-performing middle school in the region and it is a Montessori school with entry requirements. 47% of students attend a yellow school and 48% attend a red or orange school, the highest middle school percentage in the district.

As with elementary schools in the NW, many yellow middle schools are popular. The specialized programming of some of these schools attracts a high proportion of students.

Nevertheless, there is still a significant performance gap between middle schools in the NW as compared with the rest of the district.

**Note:** Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.
Northwest: High School Performance

Eight percent of high school students in the NW region are attending a high-performing school this year.

Only 8% of high school students in the NW attend a high-performing school. This is the lowest in the district (same as CEN) and is 12 percentage points below the district average and 72 percentage points lower than the 80% goal of the Denver Plan 2020.

63% of high school students in the NW attend a red or orange school, the highest percentage across all regions. 29% of high school enrollment is at yellow schools.

Again some lower performing schools are popular despite their SPF rating. In addition, almost all of the high schools in this region had a higher rating at the time of choice.

Nevertheless, there is still a significant performance gap between high schools in the NW as compared with the rest of the district.

**SPF of High Schools Over Time**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5280 HS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO Charter GES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado HS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compassion Road</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCIS HS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Denver Mont Sr HS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Denver Online</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>GALS HS</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td></td>
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<td>North Engagement</td>
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<tr>
<td>STRIVE- Excel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Learning</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West EC HS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Leader HS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.
Northwest: School Choice

Overall match rates in the NW region are the same as the district average

Participation and Match Rates in NW Transition Grades

Kindergarten 1st choice match rates in the NW region are 4 percentage points lower than the district average. However, 6th grade 1st choice match rates are 8 percentage points higher and 9th grade 1st choice match rates are 6 percentage points higher. Once second choice match rates are considered, kindergarten is 5 percentage points lower than the district average, while 6th and 9th are 3 and 5 percentage points higher, respectively.

At the kindergarten level, competition for limited seats in non-boundary schools, popular schools, and schools outside of the region drives down match rates.

At the 6th grade level, zones allow students access to a larger variety of choices which, combined with the excess capacity in the region, leads to high match rates.

At the 9th grade level as well excess capacity allows for high match rates.
Northwest: SPF & School Choice

Over half of students participating in choice-in the NW region chose a yellow school as their first choice.

Percent of Choice Participants for Transition Grades Distributed by SPF Rating of School of Choice

Less than half of all transition grade students residing in this region selected a high-performing school as their 1st choice, while over half chose a yellow school as their first choice, a higher percentage than any region in the district.

Specialized programs may be desired by parents and students, regardless of SPF rating. The cause will vary by family, but whatever the reason, the majority of students living in the NW choose to attend a yellow school, despite the limited high-performing options.

Note: The chart above reflects 2017 SPF data because this is what 2017 School Choice participants used in their research and evaluation process. This does not incorporate SPF changes this year. If a school was green in 2017 and yellow in 2018, the choice participant is classified as choosing a green school.
The majority of students residing in the NW choose to attend a school in the region.

The percentage of students choosing out of the NW region is one of the lowest in the district. This is surprising given the low overall performance of the schools in the region and the fact that it overlaps several boundaries and zones in other regions. The students that do leave, however, predominately choose out for higher performing schools in other regions.

Yet, there are a significant percentage of students choosing to attend a school in their region that is not their boundary or zone school. Special programming at several schools in the region keep some students in the region. The fact that many schools in the region had a higher SPF rating when schools were chosen also contributes, as well as the fact that there are many factors beyond SPF that

**Choice-out Behavior by Education Level**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>ES</th>
<th>MS</th>
<th>HS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 0%: Attend Boundary School
- 26%: Choice Out of Boundary but not Region
- 37%: Choice Out of Boundary & Region

*Larger Size = More Students
*Color of dot represents SPF Rating of school
The NW region draws many students from every region in the district, with the largest inflows coming from the northern parts of the CEN and SW areas.

The particularly high inflow rates from the CEN and SW can be partially contributed to the Near Northeast and West Middle School Zones being not completely within the NW region. At the elementary level as well, the boundaries of Lincoln ES and Dora Moore are in both the NW and the SW and CEN regions, respectively. High schools in the region also draw a significant percentage of choice-in students, in part due to overlap with the West High School Zone.

Additionally, city-wide programs in the NW region enroll students from throughout the district.

Where do choice-in Students Come From?

Choice-in Behavior by Education Level
### Northwest: Summary

#### CAPACITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECENT ACTIONS</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The region has declining enrollment at all grade levels, driven by housing price increases and birth declines. Forecasts show that these declines will continue, but at a slower rate in the future.</td>
<td>Cesar Chavez was closed and replaced by Rocky Mountain Prep: Berkeley at the end of 2017-2018.</td>
<td>Closely monitor the surplus of seats in this area, particularly at the elementary level. School budgets are being impacted by low enrollment, risking the ability for schools to properly fund the core program, specials, and support services.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### PERFORMANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECENT ACTIONS</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Performance gaps exist at all education levels in this region.</td>
<td>Cesar Chavez closed at the end of 2017-2018 and was replaced with Rocky Mountain Prep: Berkeley, which should provide a higher-performing option.</td>
<td>Monitor the progress of elementary schools and determine if consolidation needs to happen for schools to be able to increase performance. Budgets being strained is likely impacting performance in this region.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### SCHOOL CHOICE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECENT ACTIONS</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten match rates are comparatively low due to competition for schools. 6th and 9th grade match rates are relatively high due to enrollment zones and excess capacity.</td>
<td>With two middle school enrollment zones, match rates remain among the highest in the district. Trevista launched a dual language program in 2018.</td>
<td>Monitor effectiveness of two middle school zones to evaluate potential adjustments to zones going forward. Monitor middle school popularity, enrollment at Lake MS, and the likelihood of waitlists at Skinner going forward.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Enrollment declines in the SW region are forecast, particularly at the elementary level, as cost of living rises.

The SW region is forecast to have almost as much decline (-12%) as the CEN region, which is forecast to see the largest decline in enrollment (-15%). Elementary enrollment declines will be the most impactful, accounting for 55% of the enrollment loss.

Enrollment declines in the SW will be primarily attributable to the rapid change in demographics and housing costs that will likely accelerate in the near future. Schools in this region have historically been able to reach enrollment targets. However, housing prices in this area are rapidly increasing and families are being displaced as a result.
## Southwest: Capacity

Forecast enrollment declines will add to current excess capacity, especially at the elementary level, and will make it harder for elementary schools in the SW to reach their desired enrollment.

### Forecast and Capacity Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>E-5th</th>
<th>6th-8th</th>
<th>9th-12th</th>
<th>Total Capacity</th>
<th>Forecast Resident Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>10,444</td>
<td>4,497</td>
<td>5,569</td>
<td>20,510</td>
<td>20,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>23,303</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,609</td>
<td>5,325</td>
<td>17,958</td>
<td>17,958</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The forecast declines in elementary enrollment will add to the current excess capacity in the region. The current 88% utilization rate is forecast to decrease to 77% utilization of elementary capacity by 2023. In addition, the redevelopment of the Westwood neighborhood and the Morrison corridor should be monitored closely as it is likely to cause further displacement of families. The decrease will make it harder for elementary schools in the SW to meet enrollment goals. School leaders should start thinking strategically now to prepare for this change.

Middle school, on the other hand, is currently slightly exceeding capacity. Even with enrollment declines, capacity utilization is forecast to be at 89% in 2023, meaning that capacity will be stressed and there will be little room for flexibility of class size or enrollment mobility in the short term. However, with smaller elementary cohorts moving through, enrollment declines are likely to show at middle schools after 2023.

Finally, high school capacity in the region is currently at 85% and is forecast to decrease to 83% utilization by 2023.
Race/Ethnicity have remained relatively constant over the last 5 years.

Unlike other regions of the city, the percentage of students by race/ethnicity as a proportion of the total student population residing in this region has stayed relatively steady since 2014. However, this area has started to be affected by increased housing costs and lower birth rates. Though not yet reflected in race/ethnicity percentages, this dynamic has begun to show in the share of FRL students in the region. This, combined with the recent lunch provision policy change*, has led to an overall 2 percentage point decrease from 2017 to 2018.

*The policy change determined that all students will be provided with a hot lunch regardless of their FRL status or ability to pay.
Seventy-five percent of elementary school students in the SW region are attending a high-performing school this year.

75% of elementary school students in the SW region attend a high-performing school. This percentage is the highest for elementary schools in the district (21% above average) and is close to the Denver Plan 2020 goal of 80%.

Green schools in the region are abundant and geographically dispersed, except in the most southern part of the region. In this area, only yellow schools are available. Furthermore, there are no blue schools in the region.

Nevertheless, the number of green schools allows for a robust choice of high-performing schools.

**Note:** Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.
Southwest: Middle School Performance

Forty-five percent of middle school students in the SW region are attending a high-performing school this year.

SW green schools are fewer and less dispersed at the middle school level than at the elementary school level. Yet, they still comprise half of the middle schools in the region and have 45% of the region’s enrollment. While over half way to the Denver Plan 2020 goal, this is still 1 percentage point lower than the district average.

Yellow schools are slightly less abundant, but account for 47% of enrollment, while the one red school accounts for 9%.

**Note:** Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.
Southwest: High School Performance

Seventeen percent of high school students in the SW region are attending a high-performing school this year.

Unlike elementary and middle schools in the SW region, high-performing high school options are limited. The high-performing schools in the region are also the smallest and have rolling enrollment which results in even fewer seats available. This makes it difficult for a student to move into a high-performing school for 9th grade. Because of this, only 17% of high school enrollment is at a high-performing school. This is 3 percentage points lower than the district average and just over one-fifth of the way to the Denver Plan 2020 goal.

Lincoln and Kennedy are the two largest high schools in the area and the schools that serve the largest number of students. Kennedy, the only red school in the region (though it was yellow at the time of choice), has 22% of enrolled students. Lincoln and the 3 smaller yellow schools in the region also have 25% of enrolled students. The remaining orange schools (2 of which are alternative and draw students from all over the district) account for the remaining 36% of enrolled students.

**Note:** Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.
Southwest: School Choice

Overall match rates are higher than the district average.

### Participation and Match Rates in SW Transition Grades

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>1st Choice Match Rate</th>
<th>2nd Choice Match Rate</th>
<th>Participation Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinder, 6th, and 9th</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kindergarten 1st choice match rates in the SW are 10 percentage points higher than the district average. 6th and 9th grade first choice match rates are 2 and 1 percentage points higher than the district average, respectively. When 2nd choice match rates are considered, kindergarten is 7 percentage points higher, 6th is 2 percentage points higher, and 9th is 2 percentage points higher.

The number of high-performing elementary school options means that most kindergarten students are probably defaulting into their boundary school. The few that do participate in School Choice are choosing into a school nearby. The excess capacity in the region facilitates the placement of most of these students in their desired school.

The existence of middle schools zones in the region provides students access to high-performing schools, and two-thirds of students in the region choose one of these as their first choice. However, the green schools cannot accommodate all students in the region and may be difficult to access, especially for students living in the Grant Ranch area.

At the 9th grade level, a large percentage of students enroll in their boundary school. Those that do participate in choice choose yellow or orange schools for the most part. This may be largely driven by students residing in the West High School Zone who must participate in choice but have few high-performing options. Another contributor is the fact that several schools in the region, including 2 of 3 high-performing schools, are 6-12 models and so have few seats available to 9th grade transition students.
Overall, almost two-thirds of students residing in the SW region and participating in Choice chose a high-performing school.

The majority of kindergarten and 6th grade students chose a high-performing school as their 1st choice. Robust high-performing school options have allowed more incoming kindergarten and 6th graders to access high-performing schools through School Choice.

At the high school level, however, almost two-thirds of students choose a yellow or orange school as their first choice, a tribute to the fact that there are many factors besides SPF rating that determine choice behavior.

Note: The chart above reflects 2017 SPF data because this is what 2017 School Choice participants used in their research and evaluation process. This does not incorporate SPF changes this year. If a school was green in 2017 and yellow in 2018, the choice participant is classified as choosing a green school.
Southwest: School Choice Movement

High-performing schools in the SW region result in low regional choice-out rates.

The percentage of students choosing out of the SW region is one of the lowest in the district. At the elementary school level, the abundance of high-performing schools keeps most students in the region. The small percentages that are choosing out are students who are part of the Lincoln ES, McKinley-Thatcher, or Asbury boundaries who live in the SW, but attend these schools in the SE. Nevertheless, a high percentage of elementary students do choice-into another school in the region. This is partially driven by students seeking a more desirable option or attending a non-boundary school.

At the middle school level, roughly one-quarter of students choosing into another school move between the two zones in the region, while 14% choice-out of the region altogether. This is largely attributable to the fact that the region splits the Grant Beacon boundary and the West Middle School Zone.

47% of high school students stay in the region but choose to attend a school that is not their boundary school or part of their zone. Some may be choosing into the higher performing schools in the zone, while some may be choosing to go to the school closest to them, which is not necessarily their boundary school. About one-quarter of students choice-out of the region, though much of this may be due to the overlapping of the South boundary and the West High School Zone.

Choice-out Behavior by Education Level

Where do choice-out Students Go?

*Larger Size = More Students
*Color of dot represents SPF Rating of school

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ES</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Regional choice-in rates in the SW are the second lowest in the district (after the FNE), despite having one of the highest concentrations of high-performing schools. The highest numbers of choice-in students come from areas where boundaries or zones overlap or high-performing options are limited, particularly at the middle school level.

The comparatively low choice-in rates are attributable in part to the quantity of high-performing schools in the SE, the special programming in the NW, and the distance from other regions.
## Southwest: Summary

### CAPACITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECENT ACTIONS</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This region is forecast to experience enrollment declines in the future, particularly at the elementary level.</td>
<td>No recent actions.</td>
<td>Excess capacity and enrollment declines should be closely monitored going forward, particularly at the elementary level, and consolidation should be considered if school budgets are unable to sustain viable programs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PERFORMANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECENT ACTIONS</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall performance of elementary schools is among the highest in the district. However, significant performance gaps still exist at the high school level.</td>
<td>Phase-outs of Kepner and Henry were completed in 2018. Continued the phase-in replications of 4 new middle schools, which has improved MS performance in the region.</td>
<td>Continue to monitor the impact that declining enrollment may have on school performance. Support options for providing access to high-performing seats, especially for students who don’t participate in Round 1 of School Choice.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SCHOOL CHOICE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECENT ACTIONS</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Match rates are high at all levels.</td>
<td>Opened Southwest Choice and Enrollment Office at Charles M. Schenck in 2018.</td>
<td>Evaluate the inequity in the feeder patterns between the 6-12th grade models and the large boundary high schools, which is likely impacting school performance. Promote greater dissemination of Choice options, particularly for students who don’t participate in Choice.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Southeast: Enrollment Forecast

Enrollment is forecast to grow marginally in the region, but will remain relatively stable through 2023.

The Southeast is one of only two regions in the city that is forecast to have increased student enrollment by 2023. The increase will be small, about 3% or roughly 300 students, and will result from the redevelopment and turnover of older homes.

The southeast corner of this region has some of the highest mobility rates in the district, likely as a result of the affordability of rental units, and while enrollment is forecast to grow, housing mobility and displacement should be monitored in this area.
Southeast: Capacity

Excess capacity should be able to meet future enrollment needs but middle school capacity should be closely monitored going forward.

While enrollment in this region is forecast to grow slightly, existing capacity should be able to meet student demand. According to the forecast, middle school capacity will be 82% utilized and high school capacity will be 71% utilized in 2023. Capacity will be most constrained at the elementary school level at 90% in 2023.

The net choice-in rate for this region is approximately 25%, which historically accounts for a large portion of the surplus seats. However, if capacity were to be further constrained, DPS could restrict choice-in movement in order to accommodate all residents in the region.
Southeast: Demographics Over Time

SE region demographics, like the SW, have been relatively stable since 2014.

Race/Ethnicity & FRL Status as a Percent of SE Student Population

As in the SW, the proportions of race/ethnicity in the SE region have been relatively stable during the last five years, while the percentage of FRL students has decreased.

The number of FRL students in the region has decreased by 4 percentage points in the past 5 years. The share of FRL may decline slightly more as redevelopment and turnover continues, but the decrease in the number of students will probably be small. In addition, the recent lunch provision policy change* has likely disincentivized students and parents from applying for FRL status.

*The policy change determined that all students will be provided with a hot lunch regardless of their FRL status or ability to pay.
Southeast: Elementary School Performance

Fifty-nine percent of elementary school students in the SE region are attending a high-performing school this year.

The SE region has the highest number of blue elementary schools in the district and has just as many green schools. This means 59% of elementary students in the region attend a high-performing school. This is 4 percentage points above the district average and three-fourths of the way to the Denver Plan 2020 goal.

There are also numerous yellow schools in the region which account for over one-third of students. The one orange school has 7% of enrolled elementary students. There are no red schools in the region.

Note: Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.
Southeast: Middle School Performance

Forty-nine percent of middle school students in the SE region are attending a high-performing school this year.

As with elementary schools, the SE also has the highest number of high-performing middle schools. However, these schools are mostly smaller, non-boundary schools. The exception is Grant Beacon, but only half of Grant Beacon’s boundary is in the region. These two factors mean that, despite the relative prevalence of options, less than half of middle school enrollment is at high-performing schools. This is still, however, 3 percentage points above the district average and more than half way to the Denver Plan 2020 goal.

The larger boundary schools in the region, Merrill and Hamilton, are able to accommodate more students, resulting in more than half of enrollment in the region being at yellow schools. There are no orange or red middle schools in the region.

SPF of Middle Schools Over Time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DSST:Byers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Beacon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merrill</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SPF of K-8 Schools Over Time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Highline SE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slavens</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.
Southeast: High School Performance

Thirteen percent of high school students in the SE region are attending a high-performing school this year.

High school enrollment in the SE region of the city is dominated by the South and Jefferson boundaries. DSST: Byers is the only high-performing school in the region, but is considerably smaller than the 2 boundary schools and only makes up 13% of enrollment in the region, making it among the lowest in the district. In fact, it is 6 percent points below the district average and just over one-tenth of the way to the Denver Plan 2020 goal.

Jefferson has 37% of enrolled students, while South accounts for 50%.

DSST: Byers has been high-performing in both years when it received an SPF rating. Jefferson’s SPF rating was higher when choice decisions were made, and South’s rating was lower. Nevertheless, South has historically been a popular school regardless of rating.

**Note:** Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.
Overall, match rates in the SE region are 2 percentage points lower than the district average.

### Participation and Match Rates in SE Transition Grades

#### Kinder, 6th, and 9th

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>1st Choice Match Rate</th>
<th>2nd Choice Match Rate</th>
<th>Participation Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinder, 6th, and 9th</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SE first choice match rates at the kindergarten and 6th levels are 3 and 6 percentage points lower than the district average respectively. 9th grade first choice match rates, on the other hand, are 10 percentage points higher than the district average. With 2nd choice match rates, Kindergarten is 1 percentage point lower and 6th grade is 5 percentage points lower. 9th grade is 5 percentage points higher than the district average when 2nd choice match rates are included.

The SE is one of the few regions with an elementary school zone. Within the Far Southeast Elementary School Zone, disparate popularity contributes to the lower match rates.

6th grade choice is similar to kindergarten in the SE region. The popularity of high-performing, smaller, non-boundary schools that have limited seats available means that match rates are lower.

At the 9th grade level, on the other hand, the majority of students find the choices in the region desirable, leading to high match rates.
Southeast: SPF & School Choice

Almost three-fourths of students choosing a high-performing schools as their first choice.

The SE region has the highest percentage of students ranking a blue school as their 1st choice of all of the regions in the district. At the 6th grade level as well, the majority of students chose a blue or green school. High-performing options at the elementary and middle school level are desired and highly utilized by families living in this area.

At the high school level, almost half chose a high-performing school, while over half chose a yellow school. This highlights the fact that non-SPF factors play an important role in Choice decisions.

Note: The chart above reflects 2017 SPF data because this is what 2017 School Choice participants used in their research and evaluation process. This does not incorporate SPF changes this year. If a school was green in 2017 and yellow in 2018, the choice participant is classified as choosing a green school.
Southeast: School Choice Movement

With the highest concentration of blue schools in the district, the SE region does not have high choice-out rates.

The SE region has higher-performing elementary schools than any other region. Most students chose to attend their boundary school, though overlap with Dora Moore, McMeen, Place Bridge, Bromwell, and Steck boundaries probably caused the 12% elementary regional choice-out rate. Choosing out of the Far Southeast Elementary School Zone accounts for the movement within the zone.

The high-performing middle school options in the SE are smaller, non-boundary schools. The majority of Hamilton and Merrill boundary students wishing to attend a higher performing school either choice-into one of the non-boundary schools in the region or attend a higher performing school in a nearby region.

The percentage of high school students leaving the region is among the lowest in the district. This is partially due to the fact that South is a highly popular school. Jefferson as well, while not as popular, is still a desirable choice for students.

Where do choice-out Students Go?

*Larger Size = More Students
*Color of dot represents SPF Rating of school

Choice-out Behavior by Education Level

- 2016 ES: 69% Attend Boundary School, 12% Choice Out of Boundary but not Region, 19% Choice Out of Boundary & Region
- 2017 ES: 68% Attend Boundary School, 11% Choice Out of Boundary but not Region, 21% Choice Out of Boundary & Region
- 2018 ES: 67% Attend Boundary School, 12% Choice Out of Boundary but not Region, 21% Choice Out of Boundary & Region
- 2016 MS: 54% Attend Boundary School, 13% Choice Out of Boundary but not Region, 33% Choice Out of Boundary & Region
- 2017 MS: 54% Attend Boundary School, 16% Choice Out of Boundary but not Region, 30% Choice Out of Boundary & Region
- 2018 MS: 52% Attend Boundary School, 17% Choice Out of Boundary but not Region, 31% Choice Out of Boundary & Region
- 2016 HS: 52% Attend Boundary School, 34% Choice Out of Boundary but not Region, 14% Choice Out of Boundary & Region
- 2017 HS: 51% Attend Boundary School, 33% Choice Out of Boundary but not Region, 16% Choice Out of Boundary & Region
- 2018 HS: 54% Attend Boundary School, 30% Choice Out of Boundary but not Region, 16% Choice Out of Boundary & Region

*Attend Boundary School  Choice Out of Boundary but not Region  Choice Out of Boundary & Region
Southeast: School Choice Movement

High-performing schools in the SE draw students from almost every neighborhood in the district.

Where do choice-in Students Come From?

High-performing schools in the SE result in relatively high regional choice-in rates. The largest number of choice-in students come from the lower NNE region where several elementary boundary schools overlap and high school boundaries are close.

Another factor that may be driving high choice-in rates is the prevalence of mobile students in this region. Students who move to another region may choose to stay at their school in the SE for the sake of stability.

Choice-in Behavior by Education Level

- **Attend Boundary School**
- **Choice Into Another School in Region**
- **Choice Into Region**
## Southeast: Summary

### CAPACITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECENT ACTIONS</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There is adequate capacity in the region, but most schools have a high utilization rate due to their attractiveness to choice families.</td>
<td>Continued considerations of capacity additions at McKinley-Thatcher.</td>
<td>Middle school capacity should be monitored, as well as the high mobility rates of students in the area.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PERFORMANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
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<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Only high school students in the region do not have numerous high-performing options in the region.</td>
<td>No recent actions</td>
<td>Large high schools options will need to become green to achieve Denver Plan 2020 goal.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SCHOOL CHOICE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
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<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Match rates are relatively low at kindergarten and 6th grade due to disparate popularity and limited seats. 9th grade match rates are high, due to desirability of large high schools.</td>
<td>Far Southeast elementary zone was created in 2015 and has historically had high match rates for all zone residents.</td>
<td>Stable and increased SPF ratings at the MS level have the potential to increase match rates in the future.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>