

School District No. 1  
In the City and County of Denver  
State of Colorado  
Resolution No. 5022

**WHEREAS**, Denver Public Schools (DPS) is committed to operating and sustaining high-quality school programming for all DPS students;

**WHEREAS**, DPS is committed to investing in our students and schools to ensure equitable opportunities for all of our students;

**WHEREAS**, schools with healthy enrollment are able to provide students with a robust program of supports with equitable opportunities for all students, including academic programs, intervention and extension opportunities, appropriate multilingual education programming, a variety of electives, as well as access to Whole Child supports - social emotional and mental health supports, and restorative practice programming;

**WHEREAS**, schools below healthy and consistent enrollment levels more often experience inconsistent elective courses, impacts to language instruction and TNLI programs, insufficient opportunities for intervention/extension courses, and students sometimes left without additional opportunities due to lack of resources;

**WHEREAS**, DPS staff and the Strengthening Neighborhoods committee determined a “strong and stable enrollment” for an elementary school is above 300 students such that the school can sustain at least 2 classrooms per grade with 25 students per classroom in elementary schools; and DPS staff will engage in additional information gathering to determine an equivalent threshold for secondary schools while accounting for small, alternative programs;

**WHEREAS**, once school enrollment drops below this threshold, schools' ability to effectively implement their intended program is impacted due to declining funding;

**WHEREAS**, many parts of Denver are undergoing major shifts in demographics, resulting in significant reductions of DPS' student age population (a reduction of approximately 5,000 elementary students between 2014-2020 alone);

**WHEREAS**, the reduction in the student-aged population is projected to continue over time and impact DPS elementary, middle, and high schools, as a city and state-wide trend of declining birth rates, increased housing prices and construction of multi-family rather than single-family housing continues;

**WHEREAS**, the Denver Public Schools values school-community voice in developing solutions for our declining enrollment and collaboratively planning how to best serve students and neighborhoods;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that in the face of the sharp decline in the number of school-aged children, the Board of Education directs the Denver Public Schools Superintendent and district staff to lead a district-wide process to review under-enrolled schools;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that DPS staff are charged with directly engaging school communities, including staff, students, parents/families/guardians, neighbors and neighborhood groups, and advocates for DPS students;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education expects the district to provide coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to enable and yield community-led, district-supported options that are responsive to the unique needs of each region, and ensure quality programming for students, financial solvency, staffing, and facility use;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education expects the proposed community-led options are equitable, sustainable and high-quality options for students;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education encourages all schools, regardless of governance type, to participate in this conversation as a way to ensure all DPS students have access to quality programs and are attending schools that can fully operate all of their intended programs and school plans;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education requires that all options considered, and any potential changes, fulfill the legal requirements as the baseline for ELA programming per the Consent Decree (including TNLI) and special education, as well as include social emotional learning components.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education will evaluate proposed community-led options that meet the following criteria:

- Multiple options are presented with pros and cons for the Board of Education to consider;
- Options considered fulfill District needs to consolidate the total number of DPS schools/grades serving students;
- Options will include schools that can sustain enrollment above 300 students in elementary schools and the threshold to be established for secondary schools;

- Options will allow schools to be fiscally sustainable, consistent with other DPS schools.
- Options will present pros and cons for any new boundary configurations;
- Options will present community envisioned ideas for school programs that have the potential to increase academic programming and student outcomes.
- Options will present community envisioned ideas for building use for the remaining or consolidated schools as well as any potentially vacant buildings.

*Carrie A. Olson, PhD*

Carrie A. Olson, PhD (Jun 11, 2021 10:13 MDT)

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Carrie A. Olson, PhD, President

*Angela Cobián*

Angela Cobián (Jun 11, 2021 11:34 MDT)

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Secretary









# Small Schools Resolution\_6.10.21

Final Audit Report

2021-06-11

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