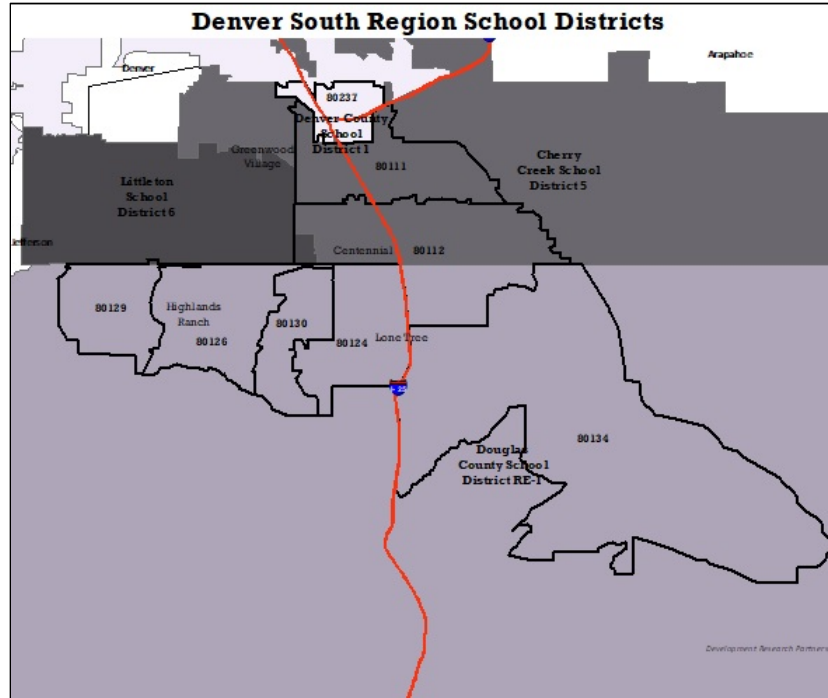


**PreK-12 Education**

The Denver South region is home to over 70 schools that serve approximately 52,900 students across three of Metro Denver’s largest K-12 school districts including the Cherry Creek School District, Douglas County School District, and Denver Public Schools. Parts of Centennial and Greenwood Village are also served by Littleton Public Schools.

Thirteen high schools in the Denver South region were named among the 2021 “Best High Schools in the U.S.,” according to *U.S. News & World Report*. Cherry Creek School District was the 12th-best high school in Colorado and ranked in the top 2 percent nationwide. *U.S. News & World Report* also named Cherry Creek High School among the 2021 “Best STEM High Schools.”



**Cherry Creek School District**

The Cherry Creek School District 5, also known as Cherry Creek Public Schools, is based in western Arapahoe County and is the fourth-largest school district in Colorado. The District serves more than 54,000 students and over 300,000 residents in eight municipalities across 108 square miles, including Greenwood Village, Cherry Hills Village, most of Centennial, Foxfield, and Glendale. The District also serves portions of Aurora, Englewood, and other areas in suburban Denver.

**Douglas County School District**

The Douglas County School District is Colorado’s third-largest school district and the largest employer in the County, serving nearly 63,000 students and over 339,000 residents for over 60 years. The District serves the Denver South region in zip codes 80124, 80126, 80129, 80130, and 80134, including the municipalities of Highlands Ranch, Castle Pines, Parker, Lone Tree, and Castle Rock.

**K-12 Education Statistics**

	<b>Cherry Creek</b>	<b>Douglas County</b>	<b>Denver Public</b>	<b>Littleton Public</b>
<b>Enrollment (2020-21)</b>	54,167	62,979	89,061	14,132
<b>Number of Schools (2020-21)</b>	69	90	204	24
<b>Pupil/Teacher Ratio (2020-21)</b>	18.0	17.6	14.5	17.7
<b>Dropout Rate (2019-20)<sup>1</sup></b>	1.3%	0.6%	3.2%	1.0%
<b>Graduation Rate (2019-20)</b>	88.6%	91.2%	74.6%	90.0%
<b>Completion Rate (2019-20)</b>	89.5%	92.5%	76.4%	92.3%

<sup>1</sup>Grades 7 to 12. Includes alternative schools. Dropout figures could include students who have left to attend school at home, outside of the state or country, or at a private institution. These students are included in the dropout count when specific documentation of the school change is not provided.

Source: Colorado Department of Education.

**Denver Public Schools**

Denver Public Schools (DPS) serve more than 89,000 students in more than 200 schools across 4,500 square miles and is the largest school district in Colorado. The City and County of Denver is the largest county in Colorado with over 729,000 residents. In the last 10 years, DPS has increased the

graduation rate by 28 percent and decreased the dropout rate by nearly 62 percent, according to DPS's most recent Comprehensive Financial Report.

**Littleton Public Schools**

Littleton Public Schools (LPS) serves communities within the southern Metro Denver region and is the 18th-largest school district in Colorado. LPS serves 28 square miles and includes the majority of the city of Littleton, town of Columbine Valley, and portions of the municipalities of Bow Mar, Centennial, Greenwood Village, and the city of Englewood. With over 14,000 students, more than 20 percent of LPS students live outside district boundaries.

**Higher Education**

The Denver South region is home to numerous higher education institutions including Regis University Denver Tech Center Campus and Rocky Vista, among others.

Several community colleges serve businesses and residents of the Denver South region including Arapahoe Community College's Parker Campus, Community College of Aurora, and Community College of Denver. The number of graduates by institution located in the Denver South region is included below.

- Nearly 68 percent of total graduates originate from the University of Colorado Denver/Anschutz and Metropolitan State University of Denver.
- The Denver South region's talent pipeline includes graduates from the surrounding Metro Denver region.
- Almost half of all degrees conferred at surrounding Metro Denver institutions in 2019 were in a health-related field; business, management, marketing, and related support services; or social sciences.
- Nearly 39 percent of degrees conferred were in a STEM-related field in 2019.

<b>Higher Education Institutions in Denver South &amp; Surrounding Region</b>
American Sentinel University
Arapahoe Community College
Aspen University
Colorado State University-Global Campus
Colorado Technical University-Denver South
Community College of Aurora
Community College of Denver
Concorde Career College-Aurora
Denver College of Nursing
Denver Seminary
Emily Griffith Technical College
Illiff School of Theology
Johnson & Wales University-Denver
Lincoln College of Technology-Denver
Pickens Technical College
Platt College-Aurora
Regis University (includes DTC Campus)
Rocky Vista University
University of Denver

Sources: Development Research Partners; Arapahoe/Douglas Works.

	<b>Number of Graduates</b>					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Arapahoe Community College	1,772	1,801	1,691	1,378	1,683	1,509
Metropolitan State University of Denver	3,545	3,557	3,546	3,674	3,466	3,576
Regis University (includes DTC Campus)	3,432	3,206	2,993	2,819	2,775	2,682
Rocky Vista University	150	144	152	160	173	170
University of Colorado Denver/Anschutz Medical Cam	4,784	4,997	5,052	5,272	5,272	5,482

Note: Data for satellite and branch campuses in the region is unavailable. Data is reported as a cumulative total for the institution. Source: Provided by Arapahoe/Douglas Works; IPEDS data aggregated by EMSI.

	<b>Percent of Graduates by Program Type at Surrounding Metro Denver Institutions</b>					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Agriculture/Natural Resources	1.8%	1.9%	2.0%	2.1%	2.0%	1.9%
Architecture	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%
Arts/History/Culinary	7.7%	7.8%	7.1%	7.2%	6.8%	7.3%
Business/Management/Marketing	14.8%	15.8%	15.6%	16.0%	15.6%	15.9%
Communications	2.9%	3.0%	3.3%	3.3%	3.1%	3.2%
Computer & IT Services	3.1%	3.6%	3.6%	3.6%	4.0%	3.9%
Construction/Repair	6.9%	5.9%	5.1%	5.6%	5.4%	5.5%
Education	4.4%	4.3%	4.3%	4.7%	4.7%	5.1%
Engineering	6.5%	6.7%	6.8%	7.4%	7.4%	7.2%
Health	19.2%	18.7%	19.1%	17.6%	18.6%	18.5%
Legal	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%
Liberal Arts & General Studies	7.5%	7.3%	8.1%	7.8%	7.7%	7.4%
Mathematics/Statistics	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%	0.8%	1.0%
Other	3.6%	3.6%	3.3%	3.4%	3.3%	2.9%
Philosophy/Theology	0.8%	0.8%	0.9%	0.8%	0.9%	0.8%
Physical Science	4.7%	4.8%	5.0%	5.4%	5.3%	5.5%
Social Sciences	13.5%	13.3%	13.4%	12.8%	13.0%	12.2%
STEM-Related	36.7%	37.0%	37.8%	37.3%	38.5%	38.6%
Non-STEM	63.3%	63.0%	62.2%	62.7%	61.5%	61.4%

Notes: STEM-related programs include agriculture/natural resources, architecture, computer & IT services, engineering, health, mathematics/statistics, and physical science. Source: Provided by Arapahoe/Douglas Works; IPEDS data aggregated by EMSI.