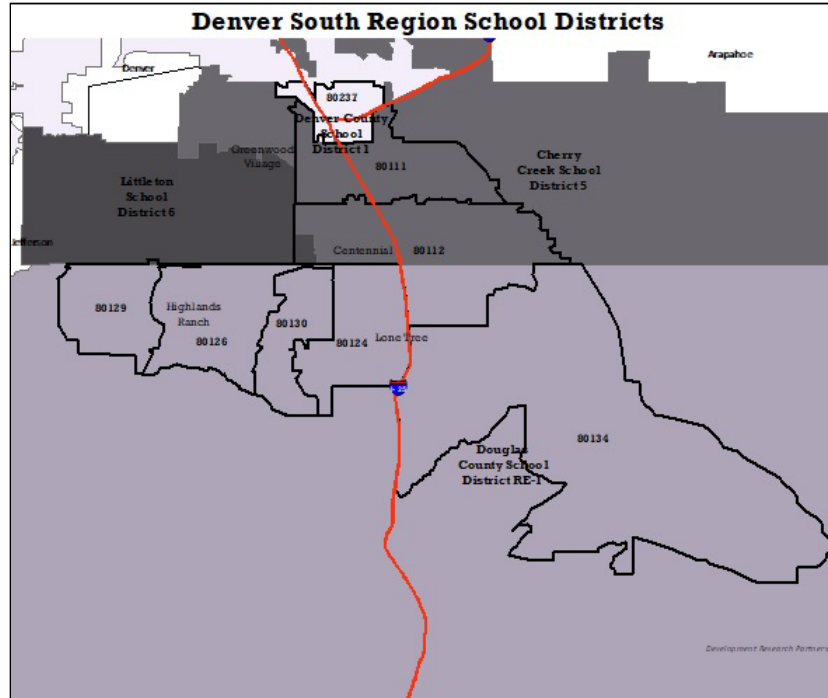


PreK-12 Education

The Denver South region is home to over 75 schools that serve approximately 54,000 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 53,500 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.

K-12 Education Statistics

	Cherry Creek	Douglas County	Denver Public	Littleton Public
Enrollment (2021-22)	53,558	63,876	88,889	13,698
Number of Schools (2021-22)	69	90	205	24
Pupil/Teacher Ratio (2021-22)	17.2	18.1	14.5	17.3
Dropout Rate (2020-21)¹	1.1%	0.6%	2.6%	0.7%
Graduation Rate (2020-21)	90.7%	90.7%	74.0%	90.7%
Completion Rate (2020-21)	91.6%	92.5%	75.5%	92.4%

¹Grades 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.

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 64,000 students and over 360,000 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.

Denver Public Schools

Denver Public Schools (DPS) serve about 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 717,000 residents. In the last 10 years, DPS has increased the

graduation rate by 26 percent and decreased the dropout rate by nearly 60 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 19th-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 13,000 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 to the right.

- Nearly 69 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 2020 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 2020.

Higher Education Institutions in Denver South & Surrounding Region

- 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
- 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.

Graduates by Institution, All Program Types

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Arapahoe Community College	1,801	1,691	1,378	1,683	1,509	1,517
Metropolitan State University of Denver	3,557	3,546	3,674	3,466	3,576	3,481
Regis University (includes DTC Campus)	3,206	2,993	2,819	2,775	2,682	2,338
Rocky Vista University	144	152	160	173	170	181
University of Colorado Denver/Anschutz Medical Campus	4,997	5,052	5,272	5,272	5,482	5,396

Note: Data for satellite and branch campuses in the region is unavailable. Data is reported as a cumulative total for the institution.

Sources: Provided by Arapahoe/Douglas Works; IPEDS data aggregated by EMSI; Colorado Department of Higher Education.

Percent of Graduates by Program Type at Surrounding Metro Denver Institutions

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Agriculture/Natural Resources	2.7%	2.7%	2.8%	2.7%	2.6%	2.5%
Architecture	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%	0.6%
Arts/History/Culinary	7.8%	7.1%	7.2%	6.8%	7.3%	7.3%
Business/Management/Marketi	15.8%	15.6%	16.0%	15.6%	15.9%	16.4%
Communications	3.0%	3.3%	3.3%	3.1%	3.2%	3.2%
Computer & IT Services	3.6%	3.6%	3.6%	4.0%	3.9%	4.4%
Construction/Repair	5.9%	5.1%	5.6%	5.4%	5.5%	5.5%
Education	4.3%	4.3%	4.7%	4.7%	5.1%	5.0%
Engineering	6.7%	6.8%	7.4%	7.4%	7.2%	7.8%
Health	17.9%	18.3%	16.9%	17.8%	17.8%	16.7%
Legal	1.2%	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%	1.1%
Liberal Arts & General Studies	7.3%	8.1%	7.8%	7.7%	7.4%	6.9%
Mathematics/Statistics	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%	0.8%	1.0%	1.0%
Other	3.6%	3.3%	3.4%	3.3%	2.9%	2.7%
Philosophy/Theology	0.8%	0.9%	0.8%	0.9%	0.8%	0.7%
Physical Science	4.8%	5.0%	5.4%	5.3%	5.5%	5.5%
Social Sciences	13.3%	13.4%	12.8%	13.0%	12.2%	12.6%
STEM-Related	37.0%	37.8%	37.3%	38.5%	38.6%	38.5%
Non-STEM	63.0%	62.2%	62.7%	61.5%	61.4%	61.5%

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.