From "Handyside, Gloria <ghandyside@bouldercounty.gov>" <ghandyside@bouldercounty.gov>
Subject **March 26, 2026 - Item #1 - Boulder Valley School District Presentation**
To "Barber, Randy" <Randy.Barber@bvsd.org>
Date March 23, 2026 11:08:50 AM MDT

Randy – I shared this with the board as we are holding our Commissioners' Town hall with Boulder County Assessor Cindy Braddock at Heatherwood Elementary on May 19. I mentioned this to you briefly at our last Parent Advisory Committee meeting.

G

From: Johnson, Elesha <JohnsonE2@bouldercolorado.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2026 10:26 AM
To: HOTLINE <HOTLINE@bouldercolorado.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] [BoulderCouncilHotline] March 26, 2026 - Item #1 - Boulder Valley School District Presentation

Good morning Mayor, Council Members and Hotline followers,

Attached find the subject presentation for this Thursday's meeting.

Kindest regards,

Elesha

Elesha M. Johnson, CMC, CRA
City Clerk/Records Manager

City of Boulder
City Manager's Office

City Clerk's Office
1777 Broadway | Boulder, CO 80302
cityclerksoffice@bouldercolorado.gov

303.441.4222

Attachments:

- ATT00001.txt
- Community Engagement Plan for Resilient Schools _ City of Boulder2.pdf

City of Boulder | 2026

Defining the path forward: A Strategic Community Engagement Plan for Resilient Schools

Tonight’s Presentation

BVSD is entering a challenging but important period of planning for the future of the district.

- Limited resources are stretched across a growing number of under-enrolled schools.
- Emerging inequities are deepening, impacting programming, staffing, and student opportunities.
- Preserving the high-quality educational experience our students deserve will require systemwide adjustments.
- Our focus now is on listening, learning, and engaging our community before any plan is developed.

Our Shared Values

The Boulder Valley community honors its history and legacy of planning for a livable community surrounded by open space and rural lands while striving together to create and preserve a truly special place that is sustainable, resilient, equitable and inclusive – now and for future generations. *(Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan 2020 Mid-Term Update)*

BVSD stands as a leader in academic excellence with outstanding educators, exemplary schools, and programs that support all students in achieving their potential. We strive to create spaces where all students feel valued and included in their learning environment.

Points of Pride



Accredited with Distinction

For the second year in a row (2024 & 2025), BVSD is the only Metro Denver school district to be **Accredited with Distinction –** The Colorado Department of Education's **highest honor.**



1121 Average SAT Score



The on-time graduation rate for the class of 2025 was **93.3%.**

*Statewide graduation rate for 2025 was 85.6%



Highest percent of BVSD students **meeting/exceeding standards** in English Language Arts and Math **on CMAS since 2014.**

Background

- Declining birth rates (national, state, & local trend) & fewer kindergarteners
- Aging population
- Dwindling housing opportunities due to low inventory, people aging in place
- High cost of living
- More housing opportunities in surrounding districts

THE DENVER POST

BUSINESS > REAL ESTATE • News

Colorado has the four most expensive housing markets in U.S. not on a coast

Denver, Boulder, Fort Collins and now Greeley make the real estate list

Daily Camera

Boulder County report: 80+ population to grow faster than all others

UPDATED: July 6, 2024 at 6:21 p.m.

THE DENVER POST

January 13, 2026

Colorado public school enrollment sees biggest drop since 2020 as graduation rate continues to improve

TIMES-CALL

NEWS > EDUCATION

St. Vrain Valley enrollment falls slightly for third year

PUBLISHED: December 18, 2025 at 4:19 PM MST

GOLDEN TRANSCRIPT

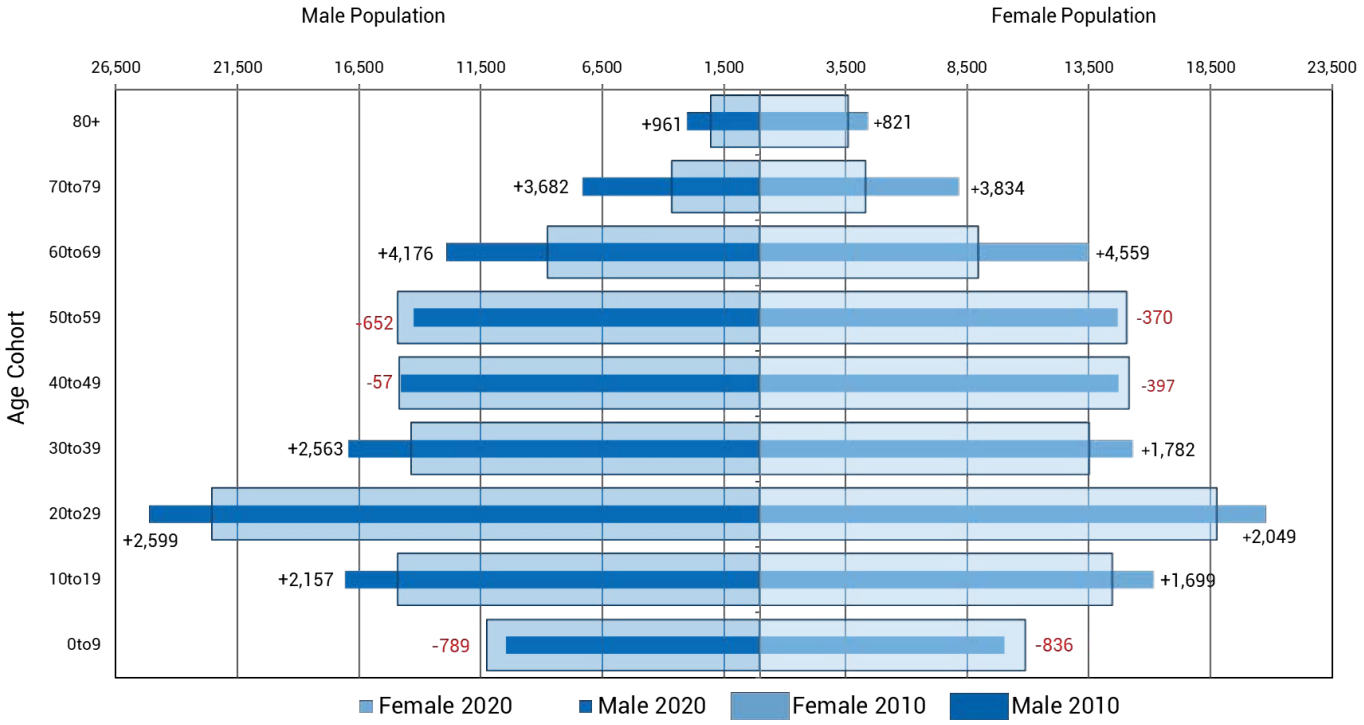
Jeffco enrollment falls to historic low as families move

District records smallest kindergarten class ever; officials point to rising home costs driving young families out

Updated Dec 3, 2025

Boulder Region

Demographic Composition

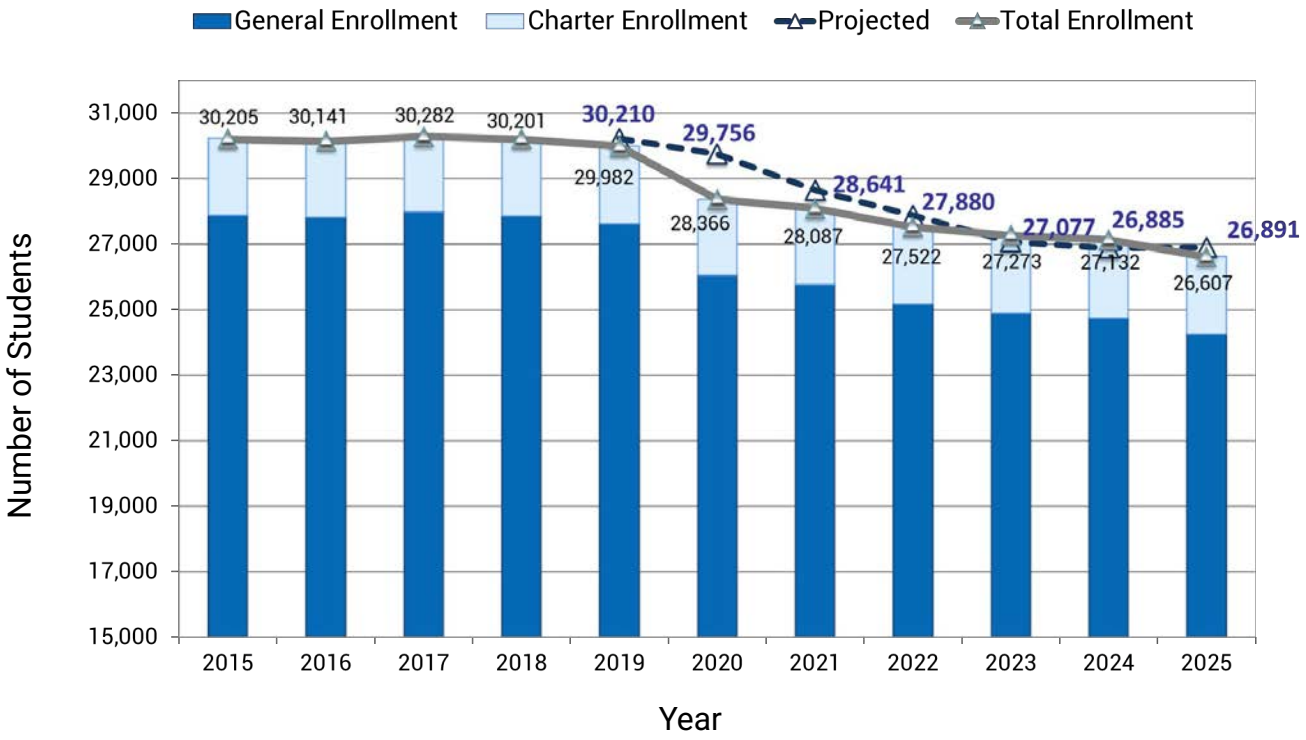


Takeaways

Between Census 2010 and 2020:

- Decreases in number of young children under 10.
- Sharp increase in number of residents over 60 years old (housing implications)
- Drop in fertility rate from 1.4 children per woman to 1.0

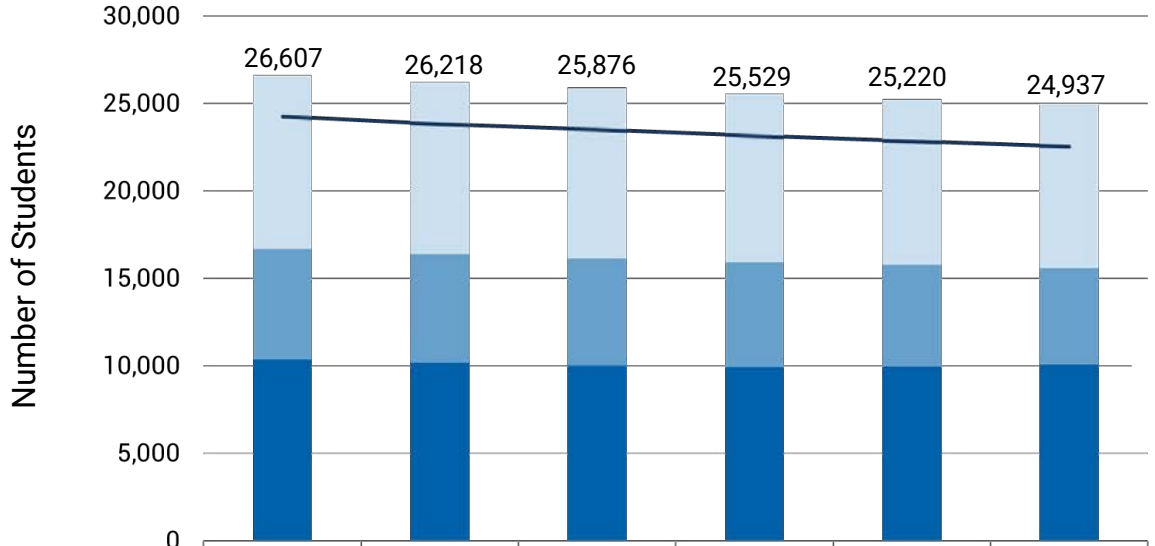
Enrollment Trends 2015-2025



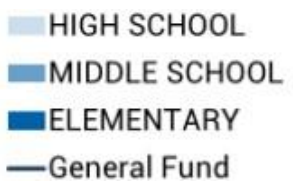
Takeaways

- Continued overall decline of -1.9%
- Decline steeper than projected (-0.9%)
- Decrease in new, non-English speaking students

Overall Enrollment Projected to Decline



	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31
HIGH SCHOOL	9,848	9,767	9,681	9,548	9,399	9,256
MIDDLE SCHOOL	6,332	6,172	6,090	5,975	5,774	5,552
ELEMENTARY	10,427	10,280	10,105	10,006	10,047	10,129
General Fund	24,270	23,845	23,503	23,156	22,847	22,564

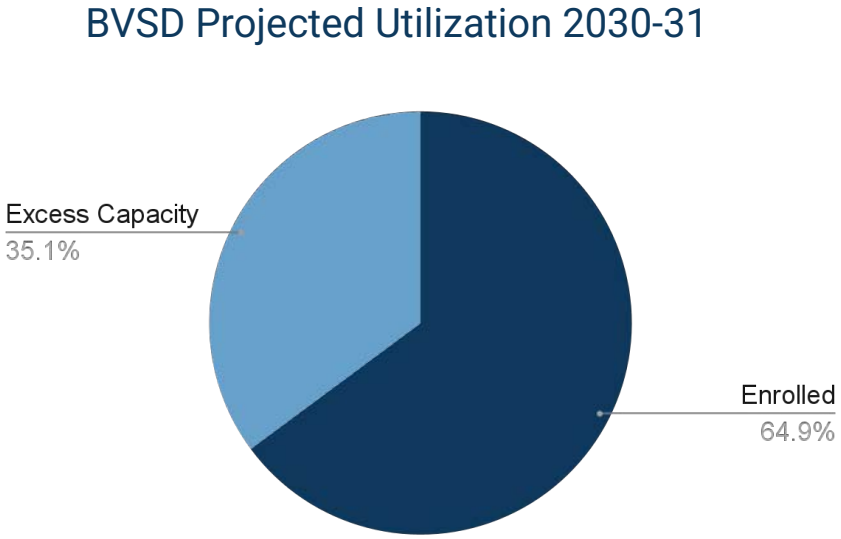


Projected loss of 1,670 students
(1,706 General Fund)

* *Preschool not included due to the difficulty to assess demand and due to its disconnect with school attendance areas.*

BVSD Elementary Building Capacity

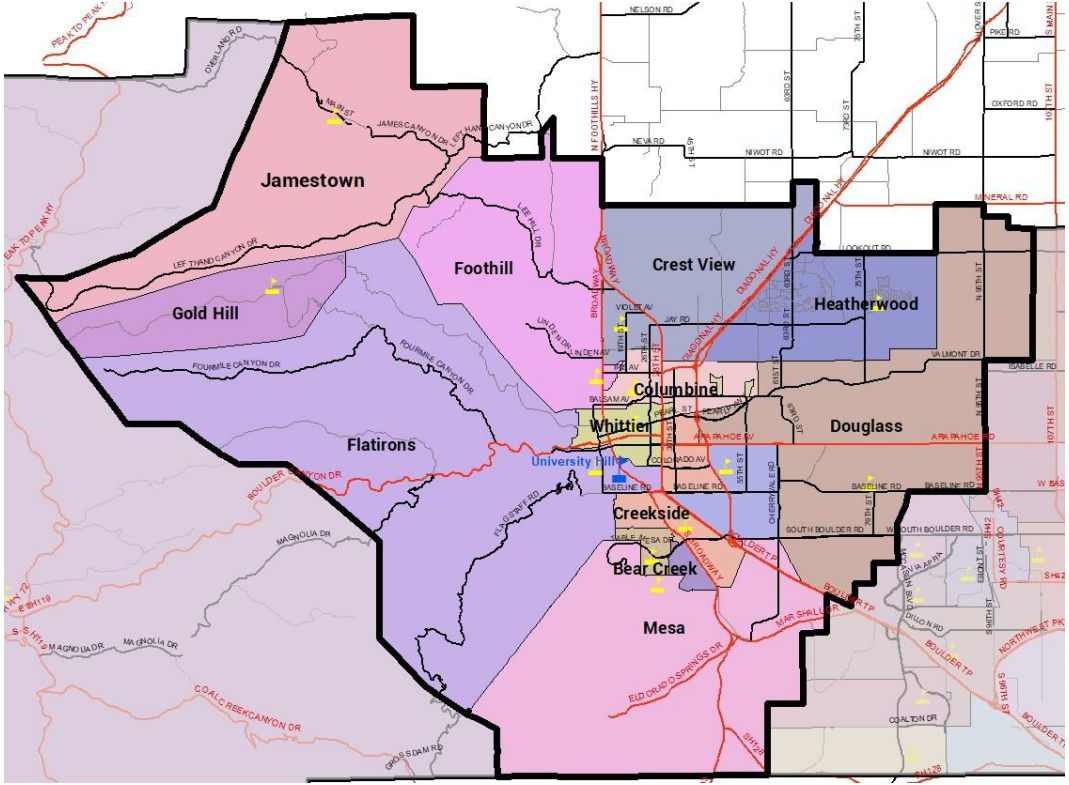
- BVSD has the capacity to serve 14,543 K-5 students in our non-charter schools.
- We currently serve 9,732 (SY 25-26) K-5 non-charter students.
- The utilization rate is 67% with 4,811 open seats (SY 25-26).
- Projected to go to 9,433, or 65% in 5 years with 5,110 open seats.



Boulder Region

Boulder Region

Attendance Areas

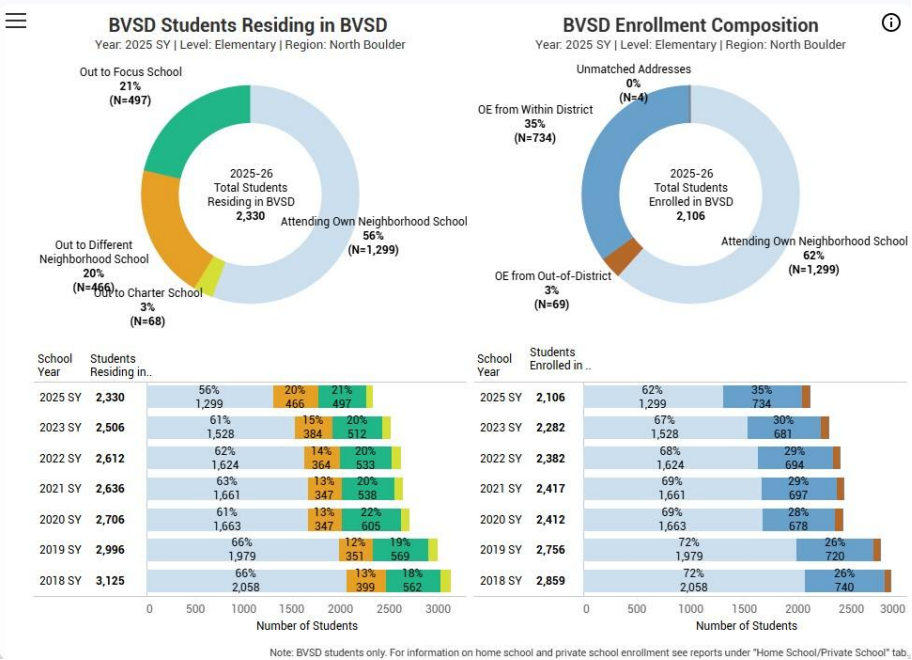


Elementary (K-5)

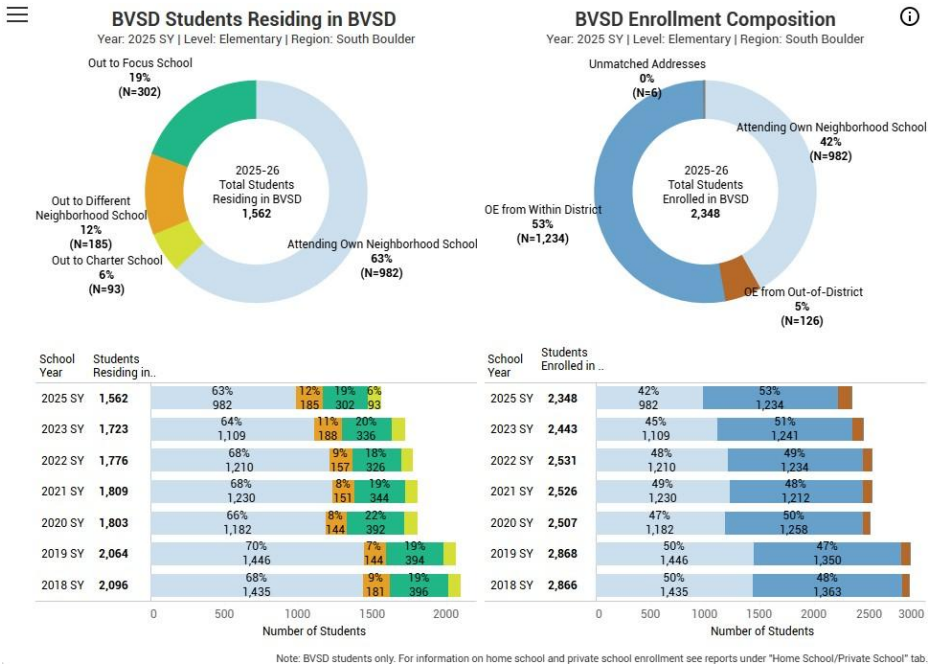
Total Capacity: 6,762
Resident Students: 3,892
Enrolled Students: 4,177
Utilization SY25: 62%
Utilization SY30: 59%

Regional Enrollment Profile

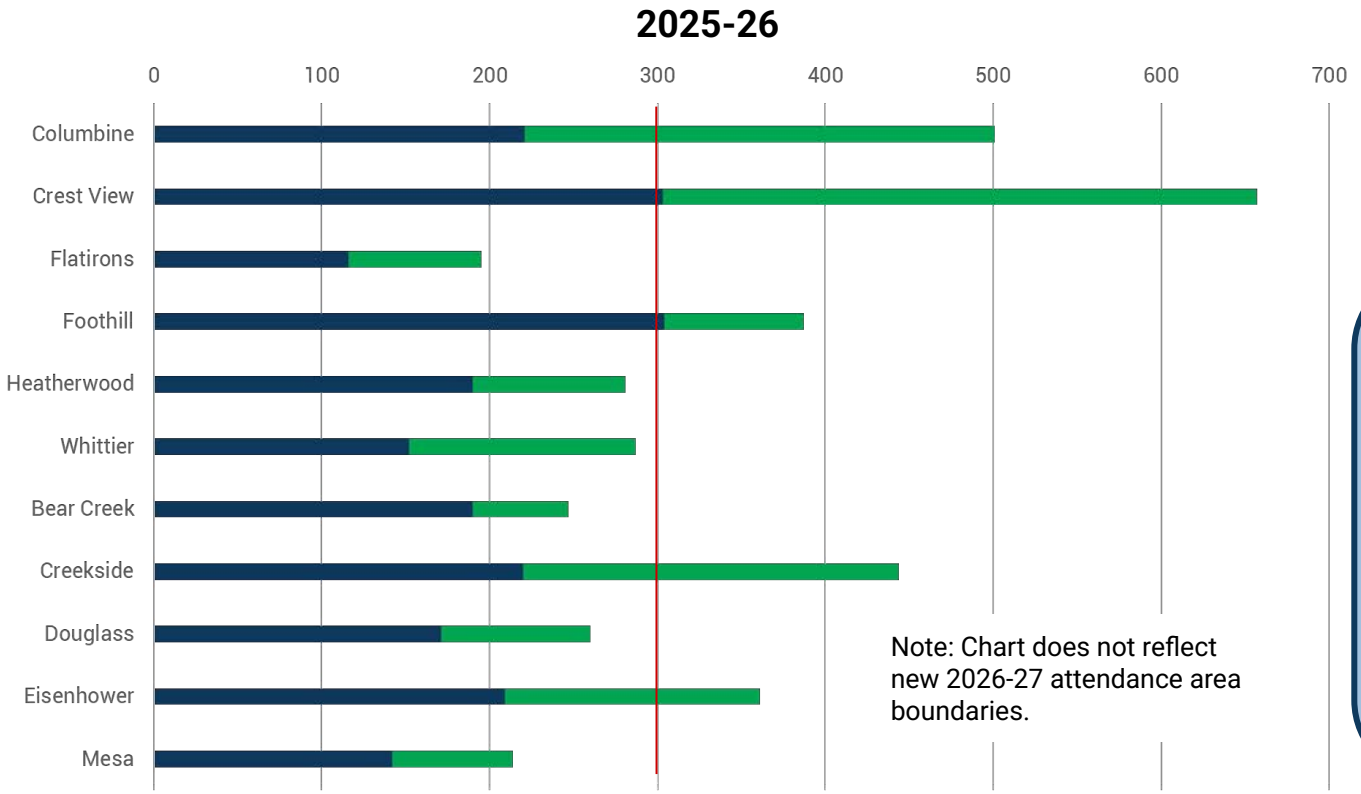
North Boulder



South Boulder



Attendance Area Student Composition



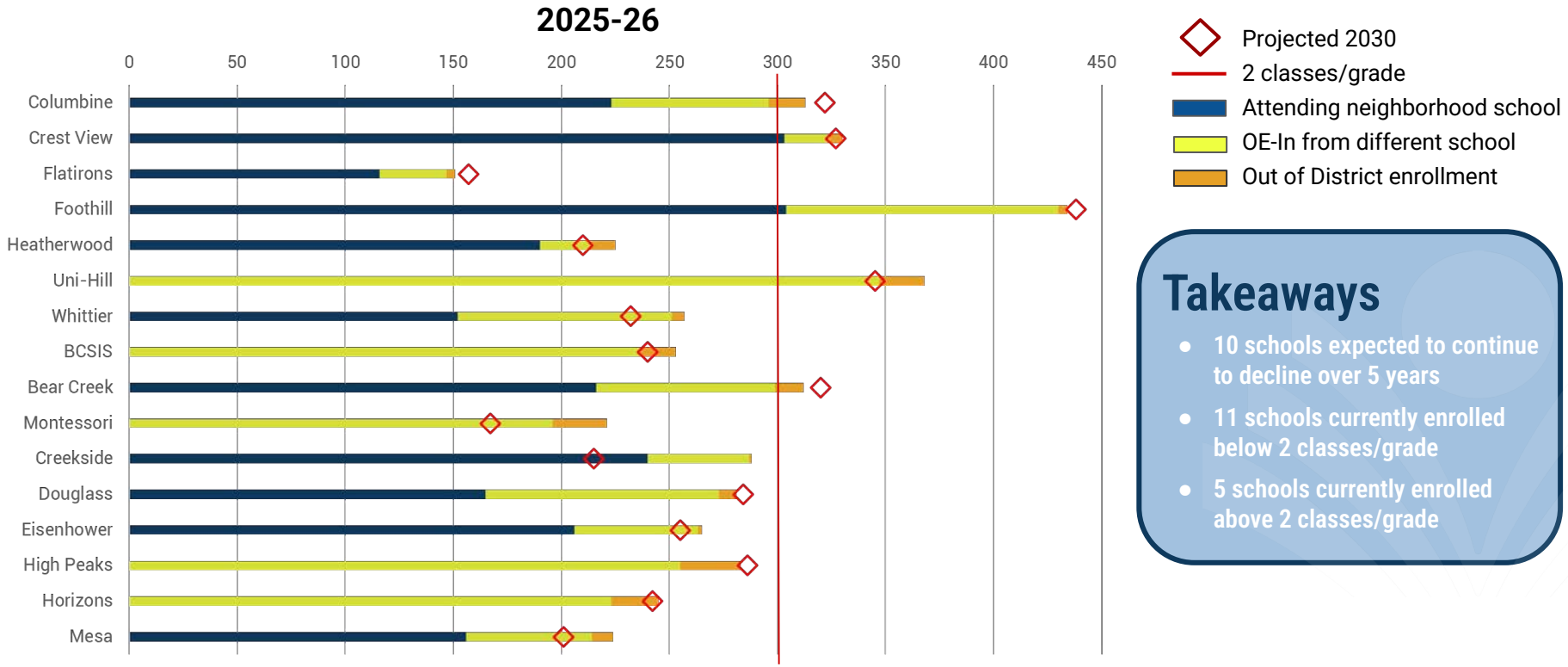
Note: Chart does not reflect new 2026-27 attendance area boundaries.

Takeaways

- Resident students cannot support 2 classes/grade at Bear Creek, Flatirons, Heatherwood, Douglass, Mesa, and Whittier
- Heatherwood and Whittier at 2 classes/grade
- Creekside, Columbine, and Crest View resident-attending near or below 50%

Boulder Region

School Enrollment Composition



Takeaways

- 10 schools expected to continue to decline over 5 years
- 11 schools currently enrolled below 2 classes/grade
- 5 schools currently enrolled above 2 classes/grade

Elementary Attendance Area Region - Boulder

BOULDER (14 school buildings)

	ACTUAL					PROJECTED													
General Fund	2025-26 Capacity*	Capacity Rounds	2025-26 Enroll	% Cap.	2025 Rnds.	2026-27 Proj.	% Cap.	2026 Rnds.	2027-28 Proj.	% Cap.	2027 Rnds.	2028-29 Proj.	% Cap.	2028 Rnds.	2029-30 Proj.	% Cap.	2029 Rnds.	2030-31 Proj.	% Cap.	2030 Rnds.
BCSIS-HP	590	4.0	536	91%	3.6	529	90%	3.5	514	87%	3.4	520	88%	3.5	525	89%	3.5	526	89%	3.5
Bear Creek	492	3.5	312	63%	2.1	299	61%	2.0	293	60%	2.0	288	59%	1.9	310	63%	2.1	320	65%	2.1
Columbine	590	4.0	313	53%	2.1	322	55%	2.1	322	55%	2.1	325	55%	2.2	321	54%	2.1	322	55%	2.1
Montessori	369	2.5	193	52%	1.3	175	47%	1.2	172	47%	1.1	163	44%	1.1	167	45%	1.1	167	45%	1.1
Creekside	369	2.5	288	78%	1.9	277	75%	1.8	252	68%	1.7	226	61%	1.5	223	60%	1.5	215	58%	1.4
Crest View	615	4.0	330	54%	2.2	318	52%	2.1	304	49%	2.0	300	49%	2.0	310	50%	2.1	327	53%	2.2
Douglass	418	3.0	281	67%	1.9	278	67%	1.9	278	67%	1.9	272	65%	1.8	277	66%	1.8	284	68%	1.9
Eisenhower	492	3.5	265	54%	1.8	253	51%	1.7	246	50%	1.6	246	50%	1.6	247	50%	1.6	255	52%	1.7
Flatirons	320	2.0	151	47%	1.0	147	46%	1.0	154	48%	1.0	149	47%	1.0	146	46%	1.0	157	49%	1.0
Foothill	565	4.0	434	77%	2.9	437	77%	2.9	444	79%	3.0	439	78%	2.9	432	76%	2.9	438	78%	2.9
Heatherwood^	492	3.5	225	46%	1.5	216	44%	1.4	209	42%	1.4	214	43%	1.4	203	41%	1.4	210	43%	1.4
Mesa	418	3.0	224	54%	1.5	217	52%	1.4	203	49%	1.4	203	49%	1.4	202	48%	1.3	201	48%	1.3
University Hill	590	4.0	368	62%	2.5	359	61%	2.4	348	59%	2.3	336	57%	2.2	338	57%	2.3	345	58%	2.3
Whittier	442	3.0	257	58%	1.7	258	58%	1.7	256	58%	1.7	247	56%	1.6	236	53%	1.6	232	52%	1.5
Summary	6,762	46.5	4177	62%	28.0	4085	60%	27.1	3995	59%	26.6	3928	58%	26.1	3937	58%	26.3	3999	59%	26.4
Average		3.3			2.0			1.9			1.9			1.9			1.9			1.9
No. <2 Rnds./60%					4			3			4			4			3			3
No. <1.5 Rnds./50%					2			3			4			4			4			4

** Does not include capacity for schools not subject to LRAC criteria (Horizons, Gold Hill, and Jamestown)*

<=2 classes per grade (rounds) or <=60% of capacity

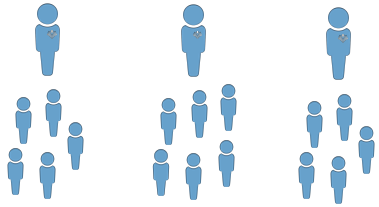
<=1.5 classes per grade (rounds) or <=50% of capacity

Elementary School Programmatic Impacts

Three Round (~450)

(3 classes per grade level)

Grade 1

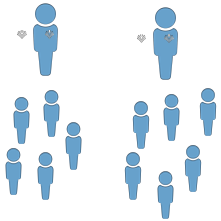


- ABC Specials rotation
- Instrumental music
- Ideal for programming
- Dedicated counselor, Specials teachers, Teacher Librarians, & Special Education teachers

Two Round (~300)

(2 classes per grade level)

Grade 1

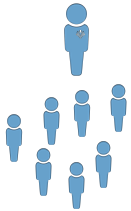


- Traveling teachers
- Scheduling complexity & limitations
- Programming limitations

One Round (~150)

(1 class per grade level)

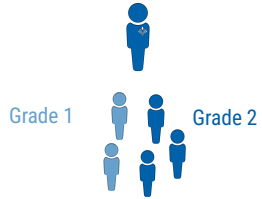
Grade 1



- Limited teacher collaboration
- Lack of flexibility to shift students
- More programming limitations

Multi Grade

(<1 class per grade level)



- Yearly change
- Complex planning for teachers

BVSD Response To Date

2021-22

- Created Long Range Advisory Committee (April 2022)

2022-23

- LRAC metrics and recommendations (June 2023)

2023-24

- Parent enrollment survey (Sept. 2023)
- Place to Be Showcase (Oct. 2023)
- Annual Trend Report (Feb. 2024)
- Initiated Heatherwood Community Engagement (Mar. 2024)
- Updated enrollment-related policies

2024-25

- Approved Heatherwood focus program (Sept. 2024)
- New enrollment dashboard (Sept. 2024)
- New commuter Choice Enrollment preference (Oct. 2024)
- Place to Be Showcase (Oct. 2024)

2025-26

- Adopted new attendance boundaries (Sept. 2025)
- Long range planning worksession (Oct. 2025)
- Place to Be Showcase
- Launch community engagement

Defining Goals

Future decisions should:

- Maintain and improve learning outcomes for all students
- Distribute students so all schools have the right level of students/resources to maintain high-quality learning experiences
- Stabilize overall enrollment by retaining current students and attracting new students to the district
- Maximize all efficiencies to address ongoing fiscal challenges

School Adjustment Options
~~Allow schools to stay "small"~~
Introduce or expand focus programs
Grade reconfiguration, e.g. K-2 & 3-5 or convert K-8s to elementary and middle
Relocate focus programs
Consolidate two or more schools into one building (existing or new)
Close one or more schools and distribute students to multiple schools


The Path Forward:
Our Community
Engagement
Commitment

What Engagement Will and Will Not Do

Engagement will:

- Build understanding of the problem
- Gather input on values, priorities, and tradeoffs
- Inform development of school adjustment options and Board of Education decision making

Engagement will not:

- Guarantee preservation of specific schools
- Delay action
- Transfer decision-making authority away from the Board of Education

Community Engagement Structure



Notes:

1. Projected enrollment in Lafayette and Erie is currently stable and will be monitored, but these areas are not part of the community engagement plan. However, potential impact to enrollment in these areas will be considered in the development of school adjustment options in other areas.
2. Per the Elementary School Metrics, due to their unique geographic circumstances, mountain schools require differentiated decisions and are not being considered for school adjustment options at this time.

Regional Engagement Sessions

Save the Dates

SUN Apr 12	MON Apr 13 New Vista HS 6:30-8:30 p.m.	TUE Apr 14	WED Apr 15 BVSD Education Center 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	THR Apr 16 Boulder HS 6:30-8:30 p.m.	FRI Apr 17	SAT Apr 18 BVSD Education Center 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
SUN Apr 19	MON Apr 20 Broomfield HS 6:30-8:30 p.m.	TUE Apr 21	WED Apr 22 Monarch HS 6:30-8:30 p.m.	THR Apr 23	FRI Apr 24	SAT Apr 25

Community Engagement Overall Process

Phase 1: Preparation (January-February 2026)

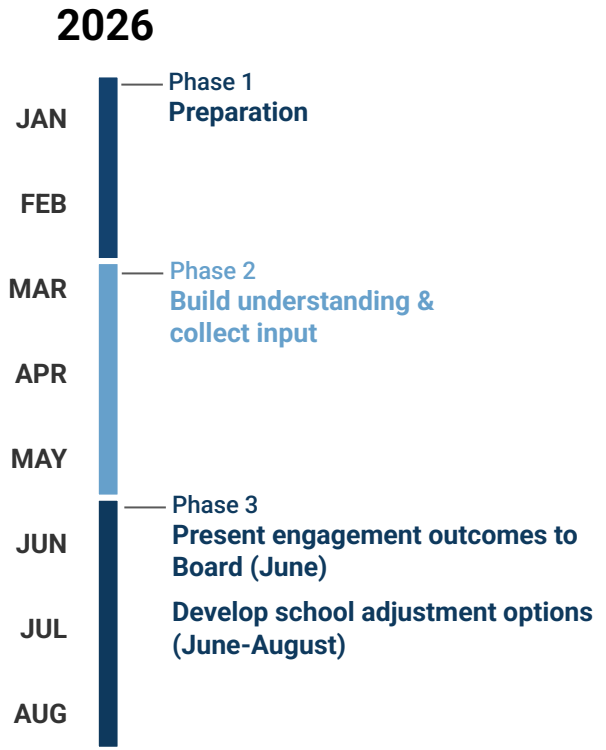
- Engage principals and teachers
- Orientation sessions with Board and Superintendent advisory committees
- Begin to engage with municipalities

Phase 2: Build understanding of the problem and collect input (March - May 2026)

- Regional community group meetings and stakeholder specific sessions

Phase 3: Develop school adjustment options (June - August 2026)

- Present summary of community engagement to Board (June)
- Staff to develop facility planning options (June-August)



Community Engagement Overall Process (continued)

Phase 4: Present school adjustment options to the Board (August 2026)

- Board's opportunity to discuss options
- Opportunity for community input during public comment

Phase 5: Present final plan for study to the Board (September 2026)

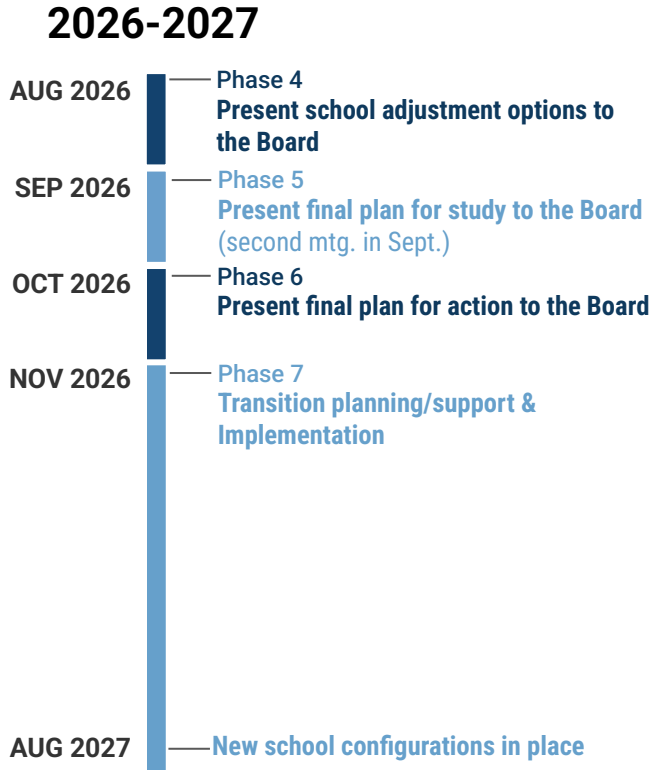
- This will include updated attendance boundaries, open enrollment preferences, analysis of facility improvements required (if any), etc.
- Opportunity for community input during public comment

Phase 6: Present final plan for action to the Board (October 2026)

- Necessary for BVSD open enrollment timeline Nov. 1 - early January 2027

Phase 7: Student / Staff Transition Planning & Support (Nov. 2026 - Aug. 2027)

- Enrollment specialists to provide direct support to impacted families throughout the enrollment process
- Support impacted staff and families with transition
- Plan for implementation
- Facility real estate process if needed





Demographics are not a problem to solve, they are a reality to plan for together.

Strong neighborhoods and resilient schools depend on shared awareness, shared planning, and shared stewardship.

Our Ask

As we engage the community in conversations about systemwide adjustments — including potential consolidation, closure, or programmatic changes — we ask for municipal partnership in supporting a thoughtful, transparent, and community-centered process.

This includes:

- Participating in engagement opportunities alongside residents
- Recognizing the long-term connection between school sustainability and community vitality



Discussion