Common Questions on Declining Enrollment in Denver

What is the district doing about declining enrollment in Denver?

In January 2022, the district released an application of community members to participate on the Declining Enrollment Advisory Committee (DEAC).

According to the district website, the DEAC will work to create recommendations on how the district should address ongoing declining enrollment, which impacts the ability to provide equitable, high-quality educational programs for our students.

Committee members have been asked to serve as representatives of their role (e.g., parent, teacher, leader) and the overarching concerns of their geographic region—not of their specific school(s). Superintendent Marrero will review the committee's recommendations on criteria to identify, close and/or consolidate schools with significant declining enrollment.

Read more about DEAC here: https://www.dpsk12.org/declining-enrollment/

An update was also provided to the community during the Denver Board of Education meeting on April 7, 2022 view that session here: https://bit.ly/3NRQjRo

How is the district collecting feedback from families?

As referenced in Chalkbeat Colorado, the district has contracted with a civic engagement organization, Warm Cookies of the Revolution, to collect feedback from families and deliver to the committee. Warm Cookies subcontracted with another organization, Community Organizing for Radical Empathy, which hired liaisons to do the work by mid-April.

Where can I find more information about declining enrollment in DPS?

RootED partnered with Eschbacher Consulting to take a deep dive into enrollment data to better understand the overall causes of low enrollment in Denver. The report overviews:
- City-wide factors impacting the student population
- Enrollment trends to neighboring districts and peer cities nationwide
- Connection of city-wide student population to school-level enrollment
- Emerging elementary and middle school enrollment sustainability insights

Download the report here.

Where can I find more information about declining enrollment in DPS? (Continued)

Additionally, RootED, in partnership with STRIVE, hosted a conversation on Facebook about Declining Enrollment in Denver to help the community understand the major contributing factors of declining enrollment and its impact on schools in DPS, and our families of color. Watch the sessions: English | Spanish. A core value of RootED is community-driven change. Our aim is to continue to elevate community voice and create space that centers students and families.

Additional Resources

Chalkbeat Colorado articles:
- Denver school enrollment predicted to drop 6% by 2025
- Frustration with closed meetings, limited debate dog Denver's declining enrollment committee

Westword articles:
- Almost Everything You Think You Know About Colorado Growth Is Wrong
- Surprising Reasons Why Colorado's Growth Is Slowing
- Why Denver Could Face a Slowing Growth Crisis This Decade
- Denver Has a Shrinkage Problem — and It's Not Alone

What should I do if I have questions or feedback about declining enrollment and its impact on Denver Public Schools?[1]

Contact your local board of education representative to share your feedback. Below is more information about the Denver Board of Education.

- About the Board | Board of Education: The DPS Board of Education website provides contact information and bios for each of the seven board members (five representatives for the five districts and two at-large members.
- District maps: These show the boundaries of each of the five board districts. You can click on a map to see which district you are in and who your board representative is.
- Lists of schools: These have lists of schools in each board district. You can click on a representative's name and district to see who represents your student's school or which district your student's school is in.