

Our Mission

"To inspire every student to think, to learn, to achieve, to care"

MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT



DR. HARRY C. BULL, JR.
Superintendent of the
Year for 2017
Colorado Representative in the
American Association of
School Administrators
National Superintendent of the
Year Program

"Our Dedication to Excellence"

Our commitment to excellence is tied directly to our students - their learning, their skills, and their prospects long after they walk across the state and receive their high school diplomas. We are focused on the world that awaits them when they leave our Cherry Creek School District, whether it is our pre-school and elementary school students or our high school seniors.

"Excellence is a moving target, and in the Cherry Creek School District, it's always moving up."

In our rapidly changing world where revolutions in technology, information sharing, and business culture have redefined the traditional notion of marketable skills, we are asking students to learn and prepare differently than their parents. As a district, our task is to prepare our children for the *future of their generation*, which is significantly different than that of our past generations. Our education strategy must include a vital component to help student develop their soft skill talents, such a *problem solving, creativity, innovation, and the ability to work on a team.* These key skills are necessary for students to successfully advance into their most viable career.

Personal growth doesn't always abide by a set schedule and learning doesn't always follow a specific calendar. Our commitment to excellence spans the entire year, and achievement comes at a different pace for every individual. We all have different routes on the road to excellence, but a common vision unites us all.

It is time for us to begin learning, and I couldn't be more excited.

I would like to formally thank the entire Cherry Creek School District community, for its generosity and investment in our future when it collectively passed ballot measures 3A and 3B in November 2016. We are humbled and grateful that voters in the District supported these measures that will directly and significantly deepen our students' education and expand their options from first grade to their senior year in high school.

CHERRY CREEK VALUES

Intellectual Development of Students

We commit to:

- ♦ Place the *needs and welfare* of students above all else.
- ♦ Hold *high expectations* for the *growth* and *achievement* of each student.
- Develop meaningful relationships with students and families.
- Foster a desire for lifelong learning, achievement, and service to others.

Our People in Support of Learning

We believe in:

- Attracting quality personnel who reflect the diversity of our community, are knowledgeable, and care deeply about young people.
- Respecting and understanding the diversity of the students and families we serve.
- Encouraging *creativity* and *innovation* to attain the *vision*.
- ♦ Demonstrating a strong *service orientation* to students and parents.

How We Relate to our Community

We will always:

- Engage students, parents, and community members as partners in the educational process.
- Promote involvement and empowerment.
- ♦ Improve the organization continuously.
- ♦ Provide a *safe* and *caring* environment for learning.

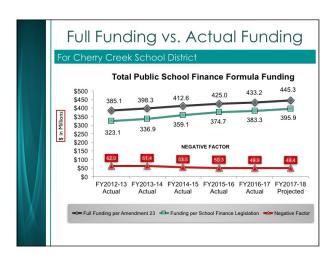
Our Values are Rooted in our Community

The Cherry Creek Schools community is respected as a leader in advocacy for top quality educational programs. Community efforts have resulted in continued success in funding educational initiatives for our District. Our electorate understands the importance of funding quality educational programs on a sustainable level, while at the same time, the District is accountable to them for fiscally responsible approaches to financing education year to year.

Amendment 23 vs. Negative Factor

The Cherry Creek School District, as well as school districts across the State, have been impacted by a legislative mechanism known as the "Negative Factor", used by the State to reduce the School Finance Formula Funding as a means to balance the State General Fund Budget. The "Negative Factor" was derived from a State Budget Stabilization Factor (later renamed as the "Negative Factor") in HB10-1369 in the 2010 Legislative Session. The imposition of the "Negative Factor" in the School Finance formula continues to be of primary concern to the Cherry Creek School District, as funding has been severely impacted by its effect.

- In FY2017-18, the Statewide "Negative Factor" is estimated at \$828.3 million.
- Cherry Creek's share of the "Negative Factor" is estimated at \$49.4 million:
 - ⇒ -11.10% less than the Total Program Funding prescribed by Amendment 23 as presented in the graph below.



Funding prescribed in the Public School Finance Program formula for Amendment 23, a Constitutional Amendment adopted by the voters in the State of Colorado in 2000, has not been maintained by the State in accordance with the expectations of the level of funding under that measure.

The intent of voters in adopting Amendment 23 was to increase funding for public education.

Future Outlook

As we approach the 2017-18 school year, State funding uncertainties are a continuing concern. Superintendents, school leaders, teachers, parents, and community members have placed a profound focus on the importance of restoration of funding lost through the implementation of the "Negative Factor."

The case has been made to the Legislature and the Governor by Superintendents representing 174 of the 178 school districts across the State of Colorado faced with mandated funding reductions during the Great Recession, that with revenue now improving for the State of Colorado, the expectation is that 1) funding should be restored through significant reductions in the Negative Factor without earmarks and 2) no new State educational mandates should occur that would divert resources from student achievement efforts.

Cherry Creek Board of Education Resolution

The Cherry Creek Board of Education adopted Resolution 045-15 "Approval of Legislative Measures to Eliminate the Negative Factor Funding Cuts" at the April 13, 2015 meeting. This resolution, prepared at the request of the Cherry Creek Board of Education, called for the Colorado Legislature and the Governor to immediately eliminate the negative factor cuts to K-12 education funding. Excerpts from that resolution are presented below:

"Whereas, starting in fiscal year 2010-2011, the legislature added a new "Negative Factor" to make across-the-board cuts to education spending. The Negative Factor applies the same percentage cut to all districts, including the Cherry Creek School District.

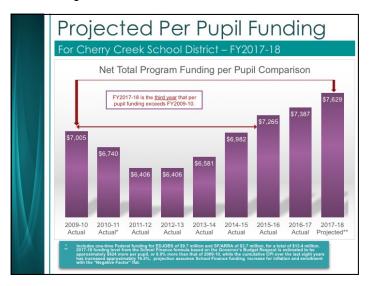
Whereas, in 2000, Colorado voters passed Amendment 23, which was designed to help Colorado's public school funding catch up to the national average and to keep it at that level. In contravention of this expressed will of Colorado voters, the legislature's implementation of the Negative Factor leaves Colorado education spending at 43rd in the country, more than \$2,715 below the national average in per pupil funding.

Whereas, in the 2014-2015 fiscal year alone, the Negative Factor extracted more than \$880.2 million from school districts of the State's support for public education. (Cherry Creek's portion was \$53.5 million in the 2014-15 school year).

Whereas, while the legislature has reduced school funding though the implementation of the Negative Factor, the legislature has passed multiple and significant education reforms without corresponding funding to support these reform efforts ("unfunded mandates"). These unfunded mandates include, but are not limited to, the Preschool to Postsecondary Education Alignment Act (CAP4K - SB08-212), the Education Accountability Act of 2009 (SB09-163), the Educator Effectiveness Law (SB10-191), and the Colorado READ Act (HB12-1238). Thus, these unfunded mandates impose financial burdens on school districts already impacted by reduced funding through the Negative Factor cuts. The cost to the Cherry Creek School District for these unfunded mandates is approximately \$51 million."

State of Colorado Funding Impacts

The FY2017-18 Cherry Creek funding per pupil has gradually increased above the 2009-10 funding levels as shown in the chart below:



This trend, caused by the decline in State funding, has continued to jeopardize the capability of Cherry Creek to prepare our students for success in postsecondary education and careers, as State revenue sources have been depleted since FY2008-09 through State funding reductions.

Cherry Creek's Current Funding Environment

The Cherry Creek School District traditions of educational excellence and high academic achievement that are among the best in the State of Colorado, have been strengthened with the support of our community throughout our history. Through the use of mill levy override funds from the November 2012 and the November 2016 elections, instructional programs have been preserved from expenditure reductions for FY2017-18. However, future year budgets may require adjustments, without sufficient ongoing increases from sustainable local and/or State revenue sources.

The Cherry Creek General Fund Budget for FY2017-18 of \$544.94 million supports the mission with 83.4% of the expenditure budget devoted to classroom instruction.

School Finance Legislation Background

The FY2017-18 General Fund Budget is prepared based on the key variables within the School Finance Legislation under the Public School Finance Act of 1994 (as amended), which utilizes the traditional formula for FY2017-18 funding purposes. Senate Bill 17-296 was approved to fund Colorado school districts for FY2017-18, which was based on the combination of estimated per pupil funding, projected funded pupil count, and final approval of the Bill as of May 10, 2017. Net Total Program funding for Cherry Creek School District is reflected in the chart below:

\$12,135,03
427,63
\$12,562,66
\$24

NET TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING FOR CHERRY CREEK

The adoption of SB17-296 increases Net Total Program Funding statewide from *\$6,372,832,460* in FY2016-17 to *\$6,634,600,182* in FY2017-18.

This is an *increase of \$261,767,722*, or *3.26%*, *from \$7,420 to \$7,662*, or an average *increase of \$242 per pupil*.

Statewide funded pupil counts are expected to increase by **7,089** funded pupils, or **0.8%**, from **858,796** FTE in FY2016-17 to **865,885** in FY2017-18

Budget Balancing Measures

The Cost and Resource Management Plan for FY2017-18 utilizes funds from the School Finance Act and 2016 Election 3A Ballot Issue funds to achieve a balanced budget that is consistent with the strategic mission and values of Cherry Creek Schools. The General Fund Budget includes **\$547.5 million** of revenue (including transfers) and **\$544.9 million** of expenditures (including transfers).

Expenditures and Transfers are budgeted to increase by \$25.3 million, while Revenue and Transfers are anticipated to increase by \$17.7 million.

Unassigned General Fund reserves are maintained as well as a balanced budget for FY2017-18.

Unassigned reserves are a degree of fiscal protection from the uncertainty surrounding the State funding for K-12 education, and also are a protective buffer in the event of unexpected enrollment fluctuations.

General Fund Budget

REVENUE BUDGET

The General Fund Revenue Budget is anticipated to increase by \$17.75 million, from the modified budget of \$529.81 million in FY2016-17 to \$547.56 million in FY2017-18. Net Total Program funding from the School Finance Act (SB17-296) increases \$12.56 million, from \$383.31 to \$395.87 million in FY2017-18. Funding for inflation increase of 2.8% totals \$12.13 million, and a slight decrease in the "Negative Factor" percentage from -11.51% in FY2016-17 to -11.10% in FY2017-18 provides \$430.000.

Other increases from State funding provided in the School Finance Act are:

◆ \$0.40 million for State Categorical Revenue associated with 2.8% inflation

Other increases to Local Revenue and Transfers:

- ◆ Local Revenue and Transfers is anticipated to increase by \$0.07 million
- Property tax abatements and collections are estimated to increase \$1.32 million
- Specific ownership taxes are estimated to increase by \$0.20 million
- Mill Levy Override increment is estimated at \$3.20 million

General Fund Budget

EXPENDITURE BUDGET

Total General Fund Expenditures and Transfers Budget increases by **\$25.33** million, or 4.9%, from **\$519.61** million in FY2016-17 to **\$544.94** million in FY2017-18. The increase in expenditures and transfers is concentrated on the resources to serve our student population, maintain class sizes in our schools, and provide for estimated increases under negotiated compensation policies for teaching and non-teaching staff.

Included in the Expenditures Budget are increases/(decreases) of:

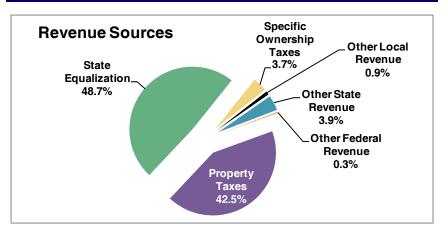
- \$19.99 million for estimated teacher and other staffing compensation and benefits, including inflationary increases, plus experience step and educational attainment for certified teaching staff
- ◆ \$1.35 million for estimated employee work groups' health benefit increase
- \$1.70 million for increases of 21.8 FTE teaching staff to align with actual SPED enrollment in FY2016-17
- \$1.40 million for Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) statutory contribution rate changes
- \$0.28 million for 2.8% increase in general instructional materials at the schools
- \$0.15 million for additional ELL translation services staffing
- (\$1.50) million in savings related to one-time FY2016-17 benefit payment allowances no longer in the budget
- (\$2.25) million for one-time FY2016-17 middle and high school math curriculum costs no longer in the budget
- (\$0.22) million for realignment of staffing FTE
- ◆ \$0.07 million for middle school study hall before school
- ◆ \$0.10 million for Student Wellness Programming
- ◆ \$0.20 million for Special Education out-of-district tuition
- ♦ \$0.70 million for increases in Workers' Compensation insurance
- \$0.61 million in educational support and operational costs associated with Middle School #11 opening in August 2017 at Sky Vista Middle School
- \$2.00 million for a one-time reserve for major maintenance
- ◆ \$0.04 million for a Unified Sports Program at six high schools

Included in the Transfers Budget are increases of:

◆ \$0.71 million for estimated financing costs related to a Technology Capital Lease Plan and Bus Capital Lease Plan in the Capital Reserve Fund

GENERAL FUND REVENUE

REVENUE SOURCES	
Property Taxes	\$232,289,377
State Equalization	266,173,423
Specific Ownership Taxes	20,029,700
Other Local Revenue	4,913,077
Other State Revenue	21,237,508
Other Federal Revenue	1,463,989
Total Revenue	546,107,074
Plus Transfers	1,460,000
General Fund Revenue and Transfers	547,567,074
Use of General Fund Reserves	-
General Fund Resources	\$547,567,074

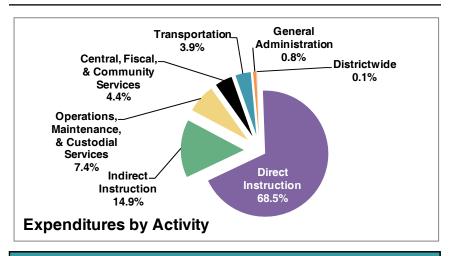


FY2017-18 Revenue Per Student FTE—\$10,553

STUDENT ENROLLMENT HISTORY					
Students	Actual 2013-14	Actual 2014-15	Actual 2015-16	Actual 2016-17	Projected 2017-18
Enrollment	53,584	53,818	53,950	54,178	54,178
FTE*	51,198	51,433	51,582	51,889	51,889
FTE Growth	1.51%	0.46%	0.29%	0.60%	-
* Funded Students					

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

General Fund operating expenditures are spent primarily on instruction, which includes direct instruction and indirect instruction. Direct instruction costs are associated with delivery of instructional services to students, including teachers, supplies, and equipment for education programs. Indirect instruction costs pertain to student support services, instructional staff, curriculum, staff development, and school-level administration.



Instruction Costs are 83.4% of Total Expenditures

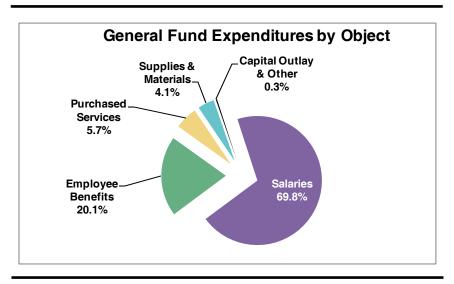
FY2017-18 Expenditures Per Student FTE—\$10,502

BUDGETED EXPENDITURES	
Direct Instruction	\$365,357,149
Indirect Instruction	79,233,615
Operations, Maintenance, & Custodial Services	39,344,584
Central, Fiscal, & Community Services	23,704,024
Transportation	20,956,816
General Administration	4,495,174
Districtwide	276,738
General Fund Expenditures	\$533,368,100
Plus Transfers	11,572,700
Total General Fund Expenditures & Transfers	\$544,940,800

2017-18 BUDGET APPROPRIATION

The Cherry Creek School District FY2017-18 budget is comprised of 8 separate funds. The Operating Fund is the General Fund. Special Revenue funds include Designated Purpose Grants, Extended Child Services, Pupil Activities, and Food Services. Capital Improvement funds include Capital Reserve and Building funds. The Debt Services fund includes Bond Redemption.

FUND	Expenditures & Transfers	Per Student FTE
General Fund	\$544,940,800	\$10,502
Designated Purpose Grants Fund	27,174,700	524
Extended Child Services Fund	17,904,600	345
Pupil Activities Fund	15,682,100	302
Food Services Fund	17,723,200	342
Capital Reserve Fund	26,938,900	519
Building Fund	135,772,400	2,617
Bond Redemption Fund	52,023,463	1,002
Total Expenditures & Transfers	\$838,160,163	\$16,153
Appropriated Reserves	21,169,215	408
Total Appropriation	\$859,329,378	\$16,561



PROPERTY TAXES & MILL RATES

The taxable valuations of real estate properties in the District are assessed by the Arapahoe County Assessor and are estimated for 2017. Based on the estimated assessed valuation, school taxes on a residence valued at \$380,700 in 2017 are estimated to be \$1.483.



* 2017 Property Value and Taxes are estimated.

Mill levy is the rate of taxation based on dollars per thousand of taxable assessed value. Local tax rates for property are always computed in mills. One mill produces \$1 in tax revenue for every \$1,000 of taxable value. The taxable assessed value is 7.20% of the residential property value for 2017.

Mill Rates					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	*2017
State Required	25.712	25.712	22.494	22.494	22.494
Hold Harmless Override	1.548	1.548	1.313	1.301	1.275
1991, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2012, & 2016 Budget Elections	17.587	17.588	14.925	19.330	19.547
Abatements, etc.	1.194	0.406	0.532	0.438	0.583
Bond Redemption	<u>11.451</u>	<u>11.448</u>	10.439	9.669	10.211
Total	57.492	56.702	49.703	53.232	54.110

^{* 2017} Mill Rates are Estimated

BUDGET & BOND ELECTION

In November 2016, the majority of voters in the Cherry Creek School District voted their support for ballot issues 3A and 3B, measures that will give the District critical funds needed to provide students with innovative opportunities needed to be successful in college and careers.



<u>Ballot issue 3A is the Budget Override for operating expenses. It provides for \$23.9</u> million which will allow the District to:

- Protect class sizes consistent with educational programs
- Recruit and retain a quality teaching staff for students
- Provide new instructional materials and support to implement Colorado Academic Standards
- Prepare students for "College and Career Postsecondary" success
- Provide instructional innovation with computers and other technology
- Provide safe transportation for students to/from school

Ballot issue 3B authorized the District to sell \$250 million in bonds for renovations and new school construction. It provides for \$250.0 million which will allow the District to:

- Keep pace with continual advancement in technology and 21st century teaching and learning approaches
- Build a stand-alone facility to expand career pathway opportunities for high school students to prepare for college and career in the 21st century
- Build new facilities to support continued student growth in the south/east portion of the School District
- Keep safety/security systems and equipment current and operational to protect our students, staff, and community
- Provide major maintenance for the community's significant investment of physical plant for current and future generations

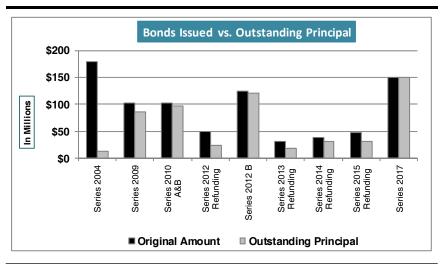




2016 BUDGET & BOND ELECTION	
BUDGET ELECTION (Ballot Issue 3A) \$23,900,000	
BOND ELECTION (Ballot Issue 3B)	\$250,000,000
Career & Innovation	\$69,500,000
Technology	8,200,000
5-Year Facility Plan for New Growth	90,750,000
Safety & Security	1,880,000
Maintaining Community Investment	79,670,000
TOTAL 2016 BOND ELECTION	\$250,000,000

BONDS PAYABLE

The Bond Redemption Fund is used to account for property taxes levied which provide for payment of general long-term debt principal retirement and semi-annual interest payments. The District's long-term debt is in the form of general obligation bonds. Bond issue and outstanding bond payable principal amounts are presented below:



GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS PAYABLE			
Series	Original Amount Issued	Outstanding Principal As of June 30, 2016	Outstanding Principal As of June 30, 2017
Series 2004	\$179,750,000	\$13,525,000	\$13,525,000
Series 2009	101,775,000	88,850,000	85,575,000
Series 2010 A & B	101,775,000	99,075,000	97,025,000
Series 2012 Refunding	48,855,000	31,995,000	23,965,000
Series 2012 B	125,000,000	122,925,000	120,840,000
Series 2013 Refunding	31,215,000	20,450,000	19,255,000
Series 2014 Refunding	37,585,000	34,595,000	31,475,000
Series 2015 Refunding	46,855,000	46,855,000	31,525,000
Series 2017	150,000,000	-	150,000,000
Total Bonds Payable	\$822,810,000	\$458,270,000	\$573,185,000

RECOGNITION FOR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The District received an unqualified, clean audit opinion from independent auditor CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the U.S. and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the U.S.



Since 1994, the Cherry Creek School District Office of Fiscal Services has received, annually, the *Government Finance Officers Distinguished Budget Presentation Certificate of Excellence Award* from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), reaching 23 consecutive years.

The Cherry Creek School District has been honored by the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) as one of only 23 school districts nationwide to receive the *Meritorious Budget Award* for excellence in the preparation and issuance of our school entity's budget for at least 15 consecutive years. We have received this award annually since 1997, or for 20 consecutive years. This award recognizes school entities that demonstrate excellence and transparency in school budget presentation.

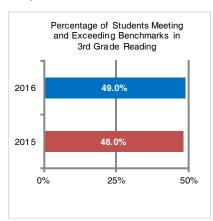


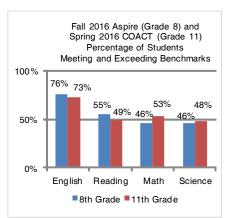
The District has also received the *Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting* from GFOA and the *Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting* from ASBO each year since 1993.



SCHOOL & DISTRICT PERFORMANCE

The Cherry Creek School District follows the Colorado Academic Standards (CAS), which emphasize the knowledge and skills of college and career readiness for all students. The State *assessment system*, known as the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS), measures student progress towards meeting our State standards. These assessments provide a higher baseline for student learning through feedback to teachers, principals, and parents on student performance in relation to the Colorado Academic Standards. The CMAS assessments include English Language Arts (ELA)/Literacy, mathematics, science and social studies. College and Career Preparedness and Success assessment results are shown in the charts below:

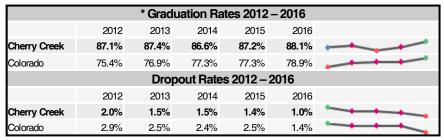




ACCOUNTABILITY

GRADUATION RATES CONTINUE TO EXCEL, SURPASSING STATE AVERAGES FOR ON-TIME GRADUATION RATES

DROPOUT RATES REMAIN LOWER THAN STATE AVERAGES

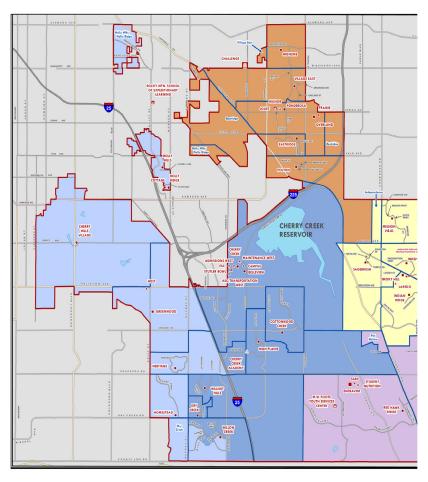


*A four-year on-time graduation rate is used in figures above.

Only those students who graduate from high school four years after entering ninth grade are defined as "on time."

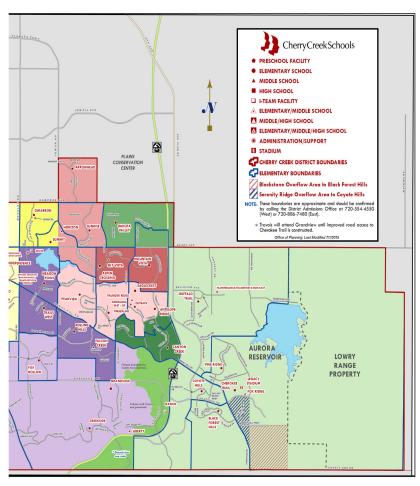
CHERRY CREEK DISTRICT MAP

2016-2017 School Year



Cherry Creek/Campus	Grandview/Falcon Creek
Cherry Creek/West	Grandview/Liberty
Overland/Prairie	Smoky Hill/Laredo

2016-2017 School Year



Eaglecrest/Horizon	Cherokee Trail/Fox Ridge
Eaglecrest/Sky Vista	Cherokee Trail/Liberty
Eaglecrest/Thunder Ridge	Cherokee Trail/Sky Vista
Smoky Hill/Horizon	Cherokee Trail/Thunder Ridge

CHERRY CREEK COMMUNITY

The Cherry Creek School District No. 5 is projected to educate over 54,800 children in FY2017-18 and serves over 301,000 residents within 108 square miles that spread across eight communities in the southeast portion of the Denver Metropolitan area. The communities served include Glendale, Foxfield, Greenwood Village, and portions of Aurora, Centennial, Cherry Hills Village, and Englewood. Certain areas of unincorporated Arapahoe County are served as well.

Schools and Facilities		
42 Elementary Schools	1 K-6 & 2 K-8 Schools	
11 Middle Schools	9 Other School Programs	
7 High Schools - 2 Stadiums	11 Student Support Facilities	

FINANCIAL PLANS AVAILABLE

You are encouraged to review and comment on the District's budget and financial plans. Your support is important to provide the education our children deserve. Upon request, copies of the Financial Plan documents are available at the following locations:

Educational Services Center 4700 South Yosemite Street Greenwood Village, CO 80111



Auxiliary Services Center 4850 South Yosemite Street Greenwood Village, CO 80111

For your convenience, the complete Financial Plan, brochures, and Mill Levy documents are also available on the District Website at:

www.cherrycreekschools.org/FiscalServices/Budget

Questions may be directed to: David Hart, Chief Financial Officer 720-554-4344

June 2017