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Executive Summary

Recent changes in the city of Denver have influenced the landscape of Denver Public Schools (DPS). The population boom has led to a more affluent population and greater housing demand, resulting in rapidly rising housing costs throughout the city. The population has also gotten younger, as young adults, who are less likely to have children, have flocked to the city. Additionally, lower birth rates have impacted city demographics, following the trend of the United States overall.

For DPS, the implications are numerous. This year’s Strategic Regional Analysis (SRA) explores these implications at the district and regional levels through the lenses of enrollment, capacity, performance, and equity. It also uses current and historical trends to forecast where these dynamics may take DPS over the next 5 years. The data throughout the report this year tell a story of a district on the cusp of change, and the details are vital for strategic planning. Of these stories, the following are the most prevalent:

- **Continued elementary enrollment declines in the Southwest, Northwest, and Central regions of the city will put increased pressure on schools, and may impact the ability of schools to provide programs, specials, and support services.**

- **Continued enrollment growth in the Near Northeast and Far Northeast regions will necessitate strategies for managing capacity.**

- **Students of color and FRL students attend high-performing schools at a lower rate than White and non-FRL students.**

Our communities, schools, and district leaders have the ability to determine how these stories will unfold over the coming years. The details in this report can help inform policies that will ensure the stories develop in a way that is beneficial for every student.
The Strategic Regional Analysis (SRA) details the current state of enrollment, capacity, performance, and equity by region, and identifies gaps in each area that may require district intervention.

This yields an understanding of where capacity and equity gaps exist and which areas will need facility support due to growth, and which may need strategies for managing enrollment declines.

The SRA informs the Call for New Quality Schools, the Facility Allocation Policy and Placement Process, and many other key parts of the school planning process, as shown below.

The Call for New Quality Schools articulates priority needs for new schools or additional capacity in the district. It engages new school applicants and communities, and facilitates quality reviews to meet needs identified throughout the district.
Geographic Organization

The SRA provides a district-wide overview followed by an in-depth analysis of the 6 planning regions shown on the map below. These regions correspond with the Regional Networks created in 2019.

Denver Public Schools Planning Regions and Regional Networks

Denver Public Schools Planning Regions and their abbreviations:
- Far Northeast = FNE
- Near Northeast = NNE
- Central = CEN
- Northwest = NW
- Southwest = SW
- Southeast = SE

The map illustrates the geographic organization of Denver Public Schools with detailed planning regions and their corresponding network designations.
Historical Enrollment

Overall DPS enrollment increased marginally from 2018 to 2019, primarily due to new growth in ECE. However, elementary declines and slowing middle school growth are likely to lead to overall enrollment declines in the next few years.

DPS has nearly 1,000 fewer elementary students in 2019 than it did in 2018. Elementary enrollment has been declining for more than 5 years, and the rate of decline has doubled within the past few years. ECE, high school, and middle school, on the other hand, all have more students this year. Yet, the middle and high school growth combined is only slightly higher than the elementary declines. Additionally, the rate of increase for both middle and high school has halved in the past five years, and will continue to do so as the smaller elementary cohorts advance.

The percent growth of enrollment is slightly higher this year due to new ECE growth from the addition of seats with community partners. Nevertheless, there has been an overall downward trend since 2013. This is largely attributable to lower birth rates, demographic changes, and increased housing prices throughout most of Denver. These changes have resulted in lower student yield per household and lower household turnover.

*Note that the 2019 enrollment numbers used throughout this document are based on preliminary 2019 October Count numbers and official October Count enrollment could be different than reported here. These numbers will be updated once DPS Planning receives official October Count data from CDE. October Count is a count of funded students.*
Recently, the primary factors of enrollment growth have been residential (particularly single-family) development and population growth. In the next several years there will be significant development in the Stapleton, DIA, and Gateway neighborhoods. Some of this development will be multi-family and townhome units with lower student yields, but all three neighborhoods will also have considerable development of single-family detached homes, which tend to yield high rates of students. These units will contribute to most of the enrollment growth in the district in the next few years.

Another contributor to enrollment has been the dramatic population increases in recent years. However, as housing costs are driven up and birth rates are driven down even further by a younger population, the raw population growth will contribute less and less to enrollment growth.

The primary factors driving the slowing of enrollment growth are declining birth rates and rapidly increasing housing prices. Reflecting the national trend of declining birth rates, consistently declining birth rates across the city have led to elementary enrollment declines since 2014. Middle school declines are possible as early as 2020.

Higher priced housing, which has historically led to lower student yields, is also contributing to slower enrollment growth. This dynamic will continue to cause significant downward pressure on future enrollment growth as housing costs in the city continue to rise.

Enrollment growth may also be slowed by the continued shift in residential development. Aside from the development in the Stapleton, DIA, and Gateway neighborhoods mentioned above, additional residential units are planned across Denver. Instead of higher yield single-family units though, many of these units will be multi-family units that have historically had smaller student yields.
What is the DPS 5-Year Forecast?

- An analysis that provides detailed information on the number of school-aged children residing in the DPS district and attending DPS schools through 2024 by age group and block group.
- The forecast this year utilizes a methodology developed in partnership with Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) and Shift Research Lab in 2017.
- Forecast data informs long-term school needs in different geographic areas.
- This year’s forecast uses the following assumptions:
  - A recession does not occur in the forecast period.
  - There is no significant change in the labor market or permitting process that would disrupt the building of new homes.
  - The housing price points are constant.
  - Capture and cohort survival rates are an average of the three previous years.
  - School quality and programs are anticipated to remain constant.
Data from the World Bank show that birth rates in the United States have been declining consistently for more than 5 years, and data from the Colorado DPHE show that Denver’s birth rates have echoed this trend. Recently, however, there has been significant population growth in Denver, and, while many of these new residents do not have children, the number of births are predicted to increase slightly in the next year or two. Nevertheless, the birth rate (the number of births as a percentage of the population) will continue to decline, meaning that between 2021 and 2024, it is likely that the number of births will also start to decline.

The birth rate declines have been reflected in the size of kindergarten cohorts at DPS. While there have been and will likely be some small upticks in cohort sizes, the downward trend of cohort sizes has been and is forecast to be persistent. This year’s kindergarten cohort has around 450 fewer students than 2015-16, by 2023-24 it is forecast that there will be nearly 1,000 fewer. The decrease will have a compounding effect on enrollment as the smaller cohorts move through subsequent grades.
Though there is considerable residential development throughout Denver, the majority of developments are multi-unit residential builds. These builds have historically yielded fewer students than single-family units, and, combined with increased housing costs, will contribute to lower enrollment in most of the city.

The Stapleton, Gateway, and DIA neighborhoods are exceptions and have considerable single-family development, which will drive enrollment increases in these areas.

Based on historical trends, we expect the areas with a significant number of multi-unit builds to have smaller student yields. Yet, if residential behavior changes, the yields could be larger than expected (though still smaller than single-family developments). For example, as housing costs increase, more families are living in doubled up housing. In addition, more families are choosing to live in apartments or condos.

The Southwest region of Denver, however, does not even have substantial multi-unit development. As a result, higher housing prices are driving families out of the region while non-child households are moving in. Without any additional housing, even low yield, there are not enough children to help alleviate enrollment loses.
District enrollment is forecast to decline by 3% overall by 2024, but some areas of the city will still experience substantial growth.

Total district-wide enrollment is forecast to decrease 3% (2,877 students) by 2024. Birth rates, housing prices, and smaller cohorts progressing through each grade will be the primary factors driving this decline.

Elementary enrollment is already declining, and will likely continue to decline through 2024, with a forecast decline of nearly 2,200 students, or 5%.

For middle and high school, previously large cohorts are forecast to fuel enrollment growth until they peak in 2019 and 2022, respectively. After this, both will begin enrollment declines. The forecast declines in middle schools will be smaller in number than in elementary, but will result in a 9% decrease (1,850 students). High school enrollment, on the other hand, despite having passed peak enrollment, will increase overall by 5% (approximately 1,167 students) by 2024.

District wide, nearly two-thirds of Denver’s 78 neighborhoods are forecast to have declines in the number of children living within DPS boundaries. Growth will primarily be concentrated in the Stapleton, Gateway, and DIA neighborhoods. The remainder of the city is forecast to have stagnant or declining student enrollment.

Note: 2024 forecast holds the number of ECE students and students living outside Denver, but attending a DPS school, as a constant number (i.e. 2018 = 2024).
Enrollment growth at all education levels is forecast to be primarily in Stapleton, Gateway, and DIA.

District-wide elementary enrollment has been declining since 2014, and is forecast to decrease by 5% between 2019 and 2024. The largest declines are forecast to happen in Montbello and the neighborhoods around Barnum and Westwood. The largest increases are forecast to happen in the Stapleton, DIA, and Gateway neighborhoods.

Enrollment declines have not yet impacted overall middle school enrollment, but are forecast to do so as soon as 2020. The largest declines are forecast to happen in Montbello, the neighborhoods around Barnum and Westwood, and the Central region. Stapleton, on the other hand, will continue to contribute to growth in the NNE, while the Gateway and DIA areas contribute to growth in the FNE. The SE will see marginal growth as well.

District-wide high school enrollment is forecast to have the most wide-spread growth, because larger cohorts will still be progressing into high school through 2024. Stapleton and Gateway will see the most growth at the high school level, but only one-third of the 78 neighborhoods in the city are forecast to have high school enrollment declines by 2024.
The number of out-of-district students attending a DPS school increased by nearly 1,000 students between 2015 and 2018. However, this trend reversed this year due to increased housing prices, decreased student-aged populations in some of the counties surrounding Denver, and increased competition.

Some DPS schools, like Denver School of the Arts, draw students from throughout the metro area due to their unique programs. Many other schools draw out-of-district students due to their proximity to the borders of neighboring counties. In particular, high-performing schools located on the east side of the city are likely to draw students from Adams-Arapahoe 28J and Cherry Creek 5. Some of the schools drawing the most students are: Denver School of the Arts, RMP Creekside, Highline SE, Thomas Jefferson, South, and Denver Language School.

However, many of these schools are also popular among students residing in the district, and some are located in areas where enrollment is growing. As competition for these schools increases, it will be increasingly difficult for out-of-district students to get a seat.
Inter-District Movement

DPS had an overall net gain of 403 students from other districts for 2019. There was a net gain from most of the surrounding districts, but there was net loss of 2,451 students to the Jefferson, Littleton, and Douglas school districts this year. Over half of these are attending Jefferson County schools.

### Students Residing in Denver but Attending a School in Another District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School District</th>
<th>Number of students that reside in Denver and attend another district</th>
<th>Number of students that do not reside in Denver and attend DPS</th>
<th>Net Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson County R-1</td>
<td>2,667</td>
<td>1,299</td>
<td>-1,368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Littleton 6</td>
<td>846</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>-742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas County RE 1</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>-341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adams County 14</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adams 12 Five Star Schools</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westminster Public Schools</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>576</td>
<td>532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry Creek 5</td>
<td>381</td>
<td>1,254</td>
<td>873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam-Arapahoe 28J</td>
<td>682</td>
<td>1,575</td>
<td>893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,157</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,560</strong></td>
<td><strong>403</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Based on 2017-18 Colorado Department of Education data.*
39% of students attending a DPS school are attending a high-performing school.

Half of all elementary students in the district are attending a high-performing school this year. 13% are attending an orange or red school.

High-performing elementary schools are distributed throughout the district. Low-performing elementary schools are also distributed throughout, but there are relatively high concentrations in the Northwest region and north-central corridor of the city.

In the north-central corridor, the concentration of low-performing schools overlaps with high concentrations of FRL students.

At the middle school level, 39% of students are attending a high-performing school. 26% are attending a red or orange school.

Red and orange middle schools are concentrated in the western and northern corridors of the city. This is especially important in the west, central, and far northeast corridors where concentrations of low-performing schools overlap with areas with the largest rates of FRL students in the district.

For high school students, 17% are attending a high-performing school this year, while almost twice as many are attending a red or orange school: 31%.

Seats in high-performing high schools are limited. Of the high-performing schools, most are non-boundary schools which require students to choice in and are likely to fill up quickly due to high competition for seats. In addition, many of these non-boundary schools are 6-12 models and give priority to students in 8th grade that currently attend their school, making choice even harder.

Note: Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low-performing.
Demographics Over Time

The percentage of FRL students in DPS has decreased by 9 percentage points since 2010, and this trend is likely to continue as Denver continues to change.

The significant decline in FRL is likely to affect equity and service provisions. Schools with high rates of FRL students receive additional support for these students. As FRL students decrease, it will be harder for schools to provide the support necessary for the remaining FRL students.

The distribution of FRL by grade indicates that the historical trends above will likely carry forward in coming years. This year’s kindergarten class has 10 percentage points fewer FRL students than the 9th grade cohort, meaning that, as the kindergarten cohort progresses, the share of FRL students will continue to decline.

The implications are the same for racial distribution. The share of Hispanic kindergarten students is 12 percentage points lower than the 9th grade share, and will continue to decline as the smaller kindergarten cohort progresses. For White students, the trend is reversed, kindergarten is 12 percentage points higher than 9th grade. Thus, the share of White students will grow as the larger kindergarten cohort progresses.

*FRL is made up of students receiving free lunch and reduced price lunch. In addition to the overall FRL declines, the proportion of students receiving free lunch is declining, while the proportion receiving reduced price lunch is increasing.*
Demographic discrepancies in the percentage of students by race that attend a high-performing school highlight inequities across the district.

Hispanic students make up 53% of ECE-12 students in Denver Public Schools and White students make up 26%. Equal distribution in schools of each SPF rating would be around 53% for Hispanic students and 26% of White students. However, Hispanic students attend red and orange schools at a considerably higher rate than their expected share, while White students attend blue schools at more than double what would be expected in equal distribution. African American and other minority groups, however, are closer to equal distribution at the district level.

The inequity in attendance by performance is also highlighted between FRL and non-FRL student distribution among schools with different SPF ratings. While FRL students make up 64% of the student population, only 32% attend a high-performing school. Non-FRL students, on the other hand, attend distinguished schools at almost twice the expected proportion.

**Note:** Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.
Overall, School Choice participation rates have remained steady since last year, but there are discrepancies among racial and socio-economic groups.

Participation rates this year for transition students applying to kindergarten, 6th, or 9th grades are about the same as last year, and are 13 percentage points higher in kindergarten than in 9th. Some of this can be explained by the fact that we are able to count older students that don't participate more effectively than younger ones, because they are less likely to be new to the district. It is also partially explained by the fact that, historically, kinder students used to be charged tuition, which made participating in choice more necessary.

Among participants, White students participated in Choice at a considerably higher rate than any other race this year. The discrepancies could be due to transportation and language barriers. It could also be due to differences in the desire of different student groups to attend their boundary school, for which they would not have to participate in Choice.

Between FRL and non-FRL, there is a participation gap of 11 percentage points for students in transition grades. This gap is slightly higher for 9th grade and lower for 6th grade. Higher rates of mobility among FRL students and differences in the desire to attend a boundary school may contribute to the gaps.

Note: Not all choice participants end up attending a DPS school. These students do not have race or FRL data and are not included in the calculations for race and FRL.
School Choice Match Rates

Overall, 83% of participating DPS students received their top choice school in transition grades K, 6, 9.

This year, match rates for 1st choice remained flat for 6th grade and a little higher for kinder versus last year. However, first choice match rate for 9th grade increased about 5 percent points.

The 5 percentage point increase in high school was driven mainly by preferences leveling out across schools, with East having fewer 1st choice selections, and, thus, a smaller waitlist, and North and South having more. In addition, Northfield was able to provide more seat offers this year.

As far as students attending their 1st choice selection, there is little difference between Hispanic and White sub-groups. However, there is a gap between these and African American students. Much of this is due to the fact that African American students are concentrated in zones in the northeast corridor of the city, and are competing for highly popular schools in areas where enrollment is growing rapidly. The other racial groups are more dispersed throughout the city, and many live in regions where there are more boundary schools, there is less competition for schools, or there is excess capacity.

When comparing FRL students with non-FRL students, 1st choice match rates follow inverse trends. FRL match rates are higher than non-FRL at the kinder level, but decrease in 6th and 9th, ending lower than non-FRL in 9th. The inverse holds for non-FRL.

Note: Not all choice participants end up attending a DPS school. These students do not have race or FRL data and are not included in the calculations for race and FRL.
Seat Offers & Choice Selections

89% of blue and green seats were filled this year versus 72% of orange and red seats.

Round 1 Seat Utilization for Students in Transitions Grades by SPF Rating*

Without School Choice, on average, each SPF category would be 83% full. However, blue and green seats are utilized at 89% on average. This equates to shifting additional students in transition grades to higher-performing schools than they would have otherwise attended, with those students matriculating forward. This represents close to 2,500 students across all K-12 grades.

Note that in 2018-19, none of the large-comprehensive district high schools were blue or green. Popular large schools like East or Northfield were yellow, increasing the utilization of yellow seats.

*The chart above reflects 2018 SPF data, because this is what 2019 School Choice Participants used in their research and evaluation process.
**Featured Analysis**

This year’s featured analysis uses spatial analysis of multiple measures relating to supply and equity for Early Childhood Education (ECE) programming. These measures identify where there are intersections of low supply, opportunity for high impact, and capacity. When layered these measures highlight clear patterns of areas in the city where ECE programming is likely to best serve DPS students in an equitable way.

**Methodology**

- Analyzed birth rates and income data by neighborhood to understand the demographic context of different areas of the city
- Identified neighborhoods with potential unmet demand and high FRL populations
- Compared highlighted neighborhoods with schools that are operating under capacity
- Used the factors above to identify neighborhoods throughout the city where additional ECE capacity would have the greatest impact

**Key Takeaways**

- There were several hundred ECE students waitlisted during Round 1 of Choice this year, indicating unmet demand.
- The outer corridors of the city, (West, North, East, Far Northeast) have the highest concentrations of FRL students.
- There are 13 neighborhoods that have both a low availability of ECE 3 and ECE 4 seats and a high opportunity for impact and equity.
- Neighborhoods in the western and northern corridors of the city, in particular, have extra elementary capacity.
- Considering all factors, the report identifies 15 neighborhoods with the highest opportunity for impact and equity.
There is unmet demand for ECE programming, despite wide-spread declines in the number of births per year throughout Denver.

2019 ECE applicants waitlisted in Round 1 who did not attend DPS for ECE in 2019

DPS has many kinder students not participating in an ECE program, and many wanting to attend an ECE program are waitlisted, indicating a significant gap in supply and demand.

In addition, though there have been declines in the number of births per year throughout much of Denver, there are still areas where the number of births per year are growing, namely the Stapleton and Gateway neighborhoods. This growth will fuel additional demand for these areas in coming years.

Change in Number of Births per Year 2013-14 to 2017-18*

* Birth data per year runs from October 2\textsuperscript{nd} to October 1\textsuperscript{st} of the following year.
Kindergarten FRL

Based on the percent of FRL kindergarten students, the areas where children face the largest obstacles to success are predominately the western corridor, northern corridor (including the Far Northeast), and, to a lesser degree, the eastern corridor (including the Far Southeast) of Denver.

There are 8 neighborhoods where 90 percent or more of kinder students qualify for FRL: Montbello, Elyria Swansea, Globeville, Sun Valley, Barnum, Barnum West, Valverde, and Westwood.
Neighborhoods where high demand for ECE and a low supply of ECE seats intersect have the highest opportunity for impact and equity.

**Supply**
- Can I get an ECE seat if I want one?
- **Low Supply** = neighborhood has enough DPS ECE seats for only a small proportion of kinder students

**Equity**
- Where do we have an opportunity to serve our most at-risk students?
- **High Equity** = neighborhood has a large share of at-risk students

**High Equity Opportunity**
- Neighborhoods with low ECE supply and high opportunity for equity and impact

**Highest opportunity for impact**

**Low Supply**

**Low Equity Opportunity**

**High Supply**
DPS ECE 3 Supply and Equity Gap

There are 19 neighborhoods with high demand for ECE 3 capacity and a low supply of ECE 3 seats. Of these, the highest concentrations are in the Southwest. Barnum, Valverde, and Barnum West, in particular, have no ECE capacity and high opportunities to increase equity.

*Supply is measured by 2019-20 ECE3 Seats as a Percent of 2022-23 Forecast Kinder Students
**Equity is measured by Percent of FRL Kinder Students
There are 18 neighborhoods with high demand for ECE 4 capacity and a low supply of ECE 4 seats. As with ECE 3, the highest concentrations are in the Southwest. 13 of the 18 high opportunity neighborhoods for ECE 4 correspond with those of ECE 3.

*Supply is measured by 2019-20 ECE4 Seats as a Percent of 2022-23 Forecast Kinder Students

**Equity is measured by Percent of FRL Kinder Students
Building Utilization

There are several neighborhoods with schools that have extra capacity that could potentially accommodate new ECE seats, and overlap with neighborhoods where there is low supply of ECE seats and high percentages of FRL students.

In particular, there is a lot of overlap for neighborhoods in the western and northern corridors of the city and some overlap in the eastern corridor and the Far Southeast.

Utilization of Elementary School Buildings by Neighborhood
Darker = Lower Utilization

* Utilization = School Capacity compared to October Count Enrollment
Summary

The neighborhoods highlighted in the map below are the neighborhoods where all factors overlap: low ECE supply, high FRL percentages, and available elementary building capacity. These neighborhoods represent areas where additional ECE capacity has the highest opportunity for impact and equity.
Regional Analyses Overview

The following sections analyze enrollment, capacity, performance, and equity for each of the 6 regions in the district.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>5 Year Forecast Percent Change in Enrollment 2019-2024</th>
<th>Capacity Utilization* (includes choice in)</th>
<th>Percent of Students Accepted at 1st Choice School</th>
<th>Percent of Students Attending a High-Performing School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FNE</td>
<td>+1%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NNE</td>
<td>+7%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEN</td>
<td>-10%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>-5%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>-15%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Highlights:

- The FNE and NNE will both have enrollment increases over the next 5 years, but significant growth in some neighborhoods will be balanced by significant declines in others. The challenge for these regions will be to add capacity or implement capacity solutions where needed at the appropriate time, in conjunction with creating strategies for declining enrollment in other areas.

- The SW and CEN regions are forecast to have considerable enrollment declines, especially at the elementary levels. Already small schools will be negatively impacted by continued declines, and could experience gaps in the ability to provide robust programs. Strategic intervention will be necessary to ensure viability.

- Surplus capacity in the SW, NW, and CEN regions will continue to grow. Strategies for the use and maintenance of highly under utilized buildings should be considered.

- There are equity gaps in attendance at high-performing schools throughout most of the district, but most notably in the NNE and CEN regions. Barriers to attendance for our highest need students should be evaluated.

*Enrollment as a percent of building capacity.
What this means for our students:

Enrollment growth in the Far Northeast in the next five years will be concentrated in the Gateway and DIA neighborhoods, while Green Valley Ranch will have slight growth. Montbello, however, will experience enrollment declines, which will be among the highest in the city. As a result, the popular schools in the Gateway neighborhood will be harder to get into and students may end up attending the school closest to them, which, in Montbello, are likely to be under utilized. Additional capacity in the region, coupled with the expansive zones and Success Express transportation, will hopefully prevent this from happening and allow more students to attend their 1st choice school.

It may also prevent the formation of serious racial and socio-economic disparities in the region. The Far Northeast has an unusually even distribution of students among schools with different SPF ratings compared with other regions in the city. As the dynamics of this region evolve, they should be monitored to ensure that inequity does not increase.
Far Northeast: Enrollment Forecast

Capacity in the FNE is currently highly utilized, and, though there is some excess capacity, it is located primarily in the Montbello neighborhood. However, growth in this region will be concentrated in the Gateway and DIA neighborhoods.

Currently, capacity in the FNE is strained at the elementary and high school levels. At the elementary level, forecast declines will help ease the pressure on elementary capacity in the region by 2024. At the high school level, on the other hand, enrollment is forecast to increase, which will put even more pressure on capacity.

At the middle school level, enrollment currently exceeds capacity, and, even with enrollment declines, capacity is forecast to still be highly utilized in 2024.

However, growth in the region will be mixed. Green Valley will remain relatively stable, while Gateway and DIA will experience high growth and Montbello will experience significant declines. This means capacity is likely to be strained in the Gateway and DIA areas, while Montbello will have excess capacity. The volume and type of residential development in the region will determine the extent to which each is over or under utilized.

The zones in the region may be able to distribute students throughout the region, making use of excess capacity. Nevertheless, students may not be willing to choice into the schools with excess capacity. Because of this uncertainty, development in the DIA and Gateway areas is being closely monitored to determine when extra capacity will be necessary.
Far Northeast: Residential Development

Large single family developments in the Gateway and DIA neighborhoods are expected to yield close to 1,500 students.

Gateway and DIA are in the midst of significant development, which will probably be sustained for the next several years. We expect the number of students living in these areas to grow significantly as a result of these developments.

Montbello, on the other hand, is a mature neighborhood which currently has little residential development, a circumstance that is not likely to change in the next few years.

Green Valley Ranch, though not as developmentally stable as Montbello, is in the tail end of a boom in residential development, and it is likely that the number of students residing in this area will stabilize or decrease as residential development reaches full build out.

Notes: (1) Student yields are estimates and change yearly. (2) Only the top 5 residential developments are shown.
Residential development has spurred overall population growth and demographic change in the FNE.

The population in the FNE changed significantly between 2013 and 2017, with the number of school-aged children growing by 11%. This growth has and will continue to boost enrollment gains in this region.

The number of children under 5, however, decreased by 4%. This decline is likely driven by the ageing in place of the population in Montbello. In the Gateway and DIA neighborhoods, this category may have grown, or may start to grow as more residential units become available.

The overall population in this region is also becoming more White. The share of Whites in the population grew by 3% between 2013 and 2017. The share of African Americans declined noticeably during the same time period, while the share of Hispanics and other racial groups both stayed roughly the same.

Note: Data are from the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey.
The demographic distribution of students living in the FNE has shifted slightly in the past 9 years, resulting in a loss of African American students.

### Race & FRL Status as a Percent of FNE Student Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FRL</th>
<th>African American</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unlike the population overall, the student population in the FNE is predominately Hispanic, and the proportion of White students is stable. In addition, students of other minority groups have been increasing in proportion to the rest of the student population. Like the population overall, however, the share of African American students is decreasing.

### Percent of FNE 2019 Student Population by Grade and Demographic Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FRL</th>
<th>African American</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The loss of African American students may not continue though. The share of African American kindergarten students is close to 9th grade share. As these students progress, they may stabilize the African American proportion of students.

The share of kindergarten Hispanic students, on the other hand, is lower than the 6th and 9th grade percentages. This may indicate that the share of Hispanic students will not continue to grow.
Far Northeast: SPF

36% of students in the FNE are attending a high-performing school this year. Almost the same amount, 33%, are attending a red or orange school.

Just under half, 48%, of the FNE’s elementary students are attending a high-performing school this year. These are primarily in the green schools that are well dispersed throughout the region.

22% of FNE elementary students are attending an orange or red school this year.

At the middle school level, 27% of FNE students are attending a high-performing school this year. Of these 27%, 65% are attending a school in the FNE; the other 35% are choosing out. Within the region, there are two high-performing middle schools this year, one of which, DSST: GVR MS, is one of the most popular schools in the district and had one of the largest waitlists this year.

On the other hand, just under half, 46%, of FNE middle school students are attending a red or orange school this year. Only 3% of these are choosing out. Half of the middle schools in the region are red or orange and are concentrated in the Montbello neighborhood, which has one of the highest rates of FRL in the city.

In high school, one quarter of students in the FNE are attending a high-performing school this year, half of which are attending a school in the region.

There are two high-performing high schools in the region, both of which had long waitlists this year. DSST: GVR HS, in particular, is difficult to get into because of its popularity as well as its 6-12 structure, which means that few seats are open in 9th grade for students that did not attend in 8th.

39% of FNE high school students are attending an orange school. There are no red high schools in this region this year.

Note: Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.
Far Northeast: School Choice

Overall 1st choice match rates in the FNE region were lower than the district average this year, because of competition for limited seats in popular schools.

Participation and 1st Choice Match Rates in FNE Transition Grades

First choice match rates in the FNE this year where higher than the district average for kindergarten students, but lower for both 6th and 9th grades.

At the kindergarten level, there are many schools to choose from throughout the region, and almost half of them are green this year. Very few elementary schools had a waitlist this year and none of them had large waitlists.

At the 6th and 9th grade levels, however, the popularity of DSST: GVR middle and high school drives down match rates. DSST: GVR had one of the largest waitlists in the district this year.

At the 9th grade level, as well as DSST: GVR there are other small, popular charter schools that carried waitlists this year. Competition for these limited seats drives down match rates.
Far Northeast: Demographics and Performance

The FNE has a fairly even distribution of students in each SPF rating when compared with the overall demographic distribution of the region.

FNE Student Distribution Based on SPF Rating and Demographics

In the FNE this year, Hispanic students are slightly under represented in blue schools and over represented in low-performing schools. African American students, on the other hand, are slightly over represented in blue schools. In red schools, all racial groups except Hispanic are under represented.

FNE Student Distribution Based on SPF Rating and FRL

As with the demographic distribution, the share of FRL and non-FRL students in FNE schools with different SPF ratings is relatively even. FRL students are under represented in blue schools and over represented in red schools, while the opposite is true for non-FRL students.

Note: Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.
## Enrollment & Capacity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enrollment declines in Montbello will be balanced by growth in the Gateway and DIA areas. Growth possibilities are highly variable but additional capacity will be needed.</td>
<td>Closely monitor enrollment and residential development to determine timing for additional capacity. Take steps to lay groundwork for new school capacity in the next 3 to 5 years.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Performance & Equity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High-performing elementary schools are numerous, but geographical performance gaps and disparate popularity exist in the availability of high-performing options. However, the racial and socio-economic distribution of students among schools of each SPF rating is relatively even.</td>
<td>Investigate and monitor the lower popularity of Montbello campus schools and how that impacts school performance to better balance appeal across the region against newer facilities. Plans to redesign the Montbello campus will help to address these issues.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Choice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There are limited high-performing options at the middle and high school levels, and most of these high-performing schools have long waitlists, which drive down 1st choice match rates in the region.</td>
<td>Monitor choice priorities at high-performing schools to ensure they are accessible to all students in order to prevent increased inequity in the region.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What this means for our students:

Enrollment growth in the NNE will be concentrated in the Stapleton neighborhood while surrounding neighborhoods experience enrollment declines. This means popular schools in Stapleton will be harder to get into, while already under utilized schools in the Park Hill neighborhoods will have a harder time maintaining viable enrollment. This will be compounded by a continuing loss of FRL students in the region.

The NNE has a robust selection of high-performing schools, and the percentage of students attending a high-performing school is the largest in the district. However, disparities in attendance exist and may be exacerbated by enrollment declines outside of Stapleton and the loss of FRL students. Currently, 53% of students in the region attend a high-performing school, but those 53% are disproportionately White and non-FRL students. African American, Hispanic, and FRL students, on the other hand, are making up a smaller proportion of the student population in this region, and are over-represented in low-performing schools.
Near Northeast: Enrollment Forecast

Growth in Stapleton will continue to drive enrollment gains in the region. However, declines in the rest of the region will mitigate some of the region’s overall growth.

Forecast & Capacity Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>E-5th</th>
<th>6th-8th</th>
<th>9th-12th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019 Current resident students</td>
<td>18,526</td>
<td>20,910</td>
<td>19,780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2024 Forecast resident students</td>
<td>4,638</td>
<td>4,887</td>
<td>5,629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2024 Current Capacity</td>
<td>4,132</td>
<td>4,470</td>
<td>4,273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2024 Forecast</td>
<td>9,756</td>
<td>11,653</td>
<td>9,878</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Currently, capacity in the NNE is adequate at the elementary level. However, elementary schools are not evenly utilized. Some are under 50% utilized while some exceed capacity.

All but the northern most part of Stapleton is mostly built out, and the population is beginning to stabilize. Combined with enrollment declines in other neighborhoods in the region, this means there will be only moderate elementary enrollment growth by 2024.

At the middle school level, enrollment growth from the large elementary cohorts during Stapleton’s build-out will result in larger middle school cohorts. Capacity is already somewhat strained, and the additional middle school growth forecast for the region will put extra pressure on capacity. In addition, many of the middle schools in this region are over utilized. To help alleviate capacity pressures, Denver Green Northfield opened this year, and will add additional capacity next year.

At the high school level, enrollment is also forecast to grow as a result of larger cohorts. As with middle school, high school capacity in the NNE is already strained. With the forecast growth, enrollment will exceed capacity. In response to this, 1,000 new seats were added to Sandoval this year and another 1,000 are planned.
Near Northeast: Residential Development

Large single family developments in the northern half of the Stapleton neighborhood are expected to yield over 2,000 students at all education levels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Student Yield</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Stapleton Filing No. 54 Phase II</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>North of 56th Avenue and West</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>Single Family Residential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Stapleton Filing No. 54</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>North of 56th Avenue and West</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>Single Family Residential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Stapleton Filing No. 57</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>61st Ave &amp; Dallas Street</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>Single Family Residential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Stapleton Filing No. 57 Phase II</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>61st Ave &amp; Dallas Street</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>Single Family Residential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Stapleton GDP</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>9590 Northfield</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>Multi Unit (9 and Up)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: (1) Student yields are estimates and change yearly. (2) Only the top 5 residential developments are shown.

Though residential development in the southern half of Stapleton (below I-70) has slowed, there is still significant development, especially in the northern most corner of Denver (above I-70).

Much of the residential development in this area is single-family units, which have higher student yields than multi-unit developments. In conjunction with the large size of the developments in this area, this means that we expect 2,000 students or more in this area, and may need additional capacity to accommodate them.
Near Northeast: Regional Dynamics

The developments in the NNE have resulted in significant overall population growth and demographic shifts.

Total Population by Age Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Percent Change 2013-2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35 to 49 years</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 to 34 years</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 19 years</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 5 years</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Percentage Point Change in Population Share by Racial Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Racial Group</th>
<th>2013-2017 Share Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>-2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>-0.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Data are from the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey.

The NNE region’s overall population grew considerably between 2013 and 2017. While the 35-49 age cohort had the strongest growth, the under 5 and school-aged cohorts (5-19) also saw strong growth. This growth has and will continue to fuel enrollment increases in the region.

Coupled with this growth were significant declines in the African American population and slight declines in the White population. The Hispanic population, on the other hand, had considerable growth, as did other minority groups.
Near Northeast: Student Demographics

The NNE student population has experienced significant demographic changes during the past 10 years, which have resulted in a dramatic reduction of FRL students.

Race & FRL Status as a Percent of NNE Student Population

In contrast to the region’s overall population, the demographic distribution of DPS White students in the region grew by 13 percentage points in 9 years, and is now nearly 50% White. During the same time frame, the Hispanic and African American proportions of the student population decreased by 5 and 8 percentage points, respectively.

In addition, the percent of FRL students in the region fell by 16 percentage points between 2010 and 2019. Such a large decline can exacerbate inequities in the region as marginalized students become more marginalized and support decreases.

Percent of NNE 2019 Student Population by Grade and Demographic Group

The distribution of FRL by grade indicates that the historical trends above will carry forward in coming years. This year’s kindergarten class has 8 percentage points fewer FRL than 9th grade, meaning as the kindergarten cohort progresses, the share of FRL students will continue to decline.

The implications are the same for racial distribution. The share of Hispanic kindergarten students is 5 percentage points lower than the 9th grade share, and will continue to decline as the smaller kindergarten cohort progresses. For White students, the trend is reversed, kindergarten is 8 percentage points higher than 9th grade, which will increase the share of White students as the larger kindergarten cohort progresses.

Denver Public Schools | Strategic Regional Analysis | Fall 2019
Near Northeast: SPF

53% of students in the NNE are attending a high-performing school this year. A significantly smaller percentage, 8%, are attending a red or orange school.

Elementary

64% of NNE elementary students are attending one of the many, well dispersed high-performing elementary schools in the region this year. Of the 64%, almost all are attending a school within the region.

8% of elementary students are attending a red or orange school.

The large number of high-performing schools in this region overlap, for the most part, with neighborhoods that have very low rates of FRL students.

At the middle school level, 68% of students are attending a high-performing school.

6% attend a red school. Roughly 40% of the 6% are attending a school outside of the region.

18% of high school students in the NNE are attending a high-performing school this year.

The three high-performing schools in the region are comparatively small and popular. One, DSA HS, is both a 6th-12th grade school, meaning that there are few open seats for 9th graders, and a qualification school, meaning that students must meet certain qualifications to attend.

There are no red or orange high schools in the region, but 12% of high school students attend a red or orange school in another region.

The other two-thirds of NNE high school students mostly attend East, George Washington, or Northfield. All of which are yellow this year. Students attending East may be attending their boundary, but also attending out of region, because the boundary is split between regions.

Note: Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.
Near Northeast: School Choice

1st choice match rates in the NNE region are lower than the district overall due to popularity imbalances among schools.

Participation and 1st Choice Match Rates in NNE Transition Grades

1st choice match rates in the NNE this year were well below the district average in both kinder and 9th grades, and slightly below in 6th grade.

There are a handful of schools in the Stapleton area that are both popular and close to concentrations of students. These schools have such high demand that they don’t have the capacity to accommodate all of the non-boundary students wishing to attend. DLS and McAuliffe, for example both had nearly 200 students on their choice round 1 waitlist. This popularity drives down 1st choice match rates in the region.

Northfield also had a high waitlist year, because many FNE students wish to attend the school. However, the school was able to accept all of its boundary students, and is having additional capacity added that can accommodate more choice-in students.

There are also less popular schools, particularly in the Park Hill neighborhood, that are under-enrolled and have plenty of extra capacity, a fact that helps boost match rates.
Near Northeast: School Choice

Hispanic, African American, and FRL students in the NNE are under represented in high-performing schools.

NNE Student Distribution Based on SPF Rating and Demographics

Compared with the overall demographic distribution of the NNE, the distribution of students for schools at each SPF rating is inequitable. White students are over represented in high-performing schools and under represented in low-performing. The opposite is true for Hispanic and African American students; they are under represented in high-performing schools and over represented in low-performing schools.

NNE Student Distribution Based on SPF Rating and FRL

The inequity is also evident between FRL and non-FRL students. FRL students are under represented in high-performing schools and over represented in low-performing schools. In red schools in particular, they are over represented by almost double the expected share.

Note: Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.
Near Northeast Summary & Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrollment &amp; Capacity</th>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The region has disparate capacity constraints. Schools in North Park Hill have hundreds of open seats, particularly at the elementary level, while Stapleton is driving much of the growth in the city. Middle and high school capacity are strained in Stapleton, but recent and planned capacity additions should help alleviate this pressure.</td>
<td>Monitor the level of over-supply in Park Hill area schools and create school options that alleviate pressure in Stapleton. Middle and high school growth should be closely monitored to ensure there is enough capacity for 2020 and beyond.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance &amp; Equity</th>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There are numerous high-performing options at all education levels in the NNE, and over half of the students in this region are able to attend a high-performing school. However, there are also substantial equity gaps in attendance at these schools as a whole.</td>
<td>Monitor choice priorities at high-performing schools to ensure they are equally accessible to all students. FRL priorities could help to close the equity gaps in this region.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choice</th>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There are many popular high-performing schools in the region that attract students from throughout the district and carry long waitlists, which drives down match rates.</td>
<td>Improvements at Hill, George Washington, and Northfield would substantially increase the number of high-performing seats.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Central Regional Overview

-10% 5 year Forecast Enrollment Percent Change

79% Capacity Utilization (includes choice in students)

27% Students Attending a High-Performing School

86% Students Accepted at 1st Choice School

What this means for our students:

The considerable forecast enrollment declines in the Central region could exacerbate several existing issues in the region. To begin with, the already low building utilization is likely to drop even further. Enrollment conditions may have a negative impact on students that attend under-enrolled schools, because offerings will decrease as enrollment decreases. With this loss, there will be less support for both teachers and students, as well as fewer options for activities and learning beyond the core programming.

Schools may also have a harder time maintaining a high performance rating, which is likely to exacerbate existing inequities within the region. Already, Hispanic students and FRL students are substantially under represented in the region’s very few distinguished schools.

A strategy addressing the under utilization and declining enrollment in this region could prevent increases of existing equity gaps.
Central: Enrollment Forecast

Significant enrollment declines are forecast in the Central region due to rising housing costs and changing residential demographics.

Forecast and Capacity Comparison

The CEN region is forecast to have the second largest percent decrease in enrollment of any region in the district. Elementary enrollment will be hit the hardest by 2024, but the rate of decrease for middle and high school will speed up as recent larger cohorts graduate and are replaced by smaller cohorts.

Though the 2024 forecast seat surplus is high, the two high schools that are located in the Central region, East and Manual, have boundaries that include students living in the Near Northeast region. Thus, the actual surplus will likely be smaller due to those seats filling from boundary students in the neighboring region. Further, many schools in the region are pathways schools or city-wide programs where capacity is meant for students throughout the district. East, because of its popularity, also draws students from throughout the district.

The surplus of seats at elementary is more concerning due to fewer mitigating factors and the impact on smaller school programing and services. With enrollment forecast to decrease further by 2024, the seat surplus in this region will require close monitoring of enrollment trends, performance, and capacity going forward.
Central: Residential Development

The proliferation of low yield, multi-unit builds with mostly studio and efficiency apartments has driven housing costs up and enrollment down.

The Central region is being hit particularly hard by rising housing costs and an out-migration of residents. While thousands of residential units are being constructed in this area, these units yield very few students as they are mostly small apartments marketed toward young adults and empty-nesters.

This dynamic has greatly contributed to the enrollment declines in the region, and, if the same kind of development continues, it will drive enrollment down even further.

Notes: (1) Student yields are estimates and change yearly. (2) Only the top 5 residential developments are shown.
Central: Regional Dynamics

Changes in housing cost and composition have driven out families with children and changed the demographic make-up of the region.

The change in housing cost and housing type composition resulted in a significant increase in 20-34 years olds between 2013 and 2017. During the same period, both the student-age population and the population under 5 declined dramatically. The student-age population decrease has caused enrollment declines that will be compounded by the under 5 population decrease.

Increased housing cost also resulted in a demographic shift in the region. Younger, more affluent White populations replaced both African American and Hispanic populations and families with children.

Note: Data are from the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey.
Central: Student Demographics

Shifting residential trends in the CEN region have resulted in significant demographic changes and a substantial decline of FRL students.

Echoing the overall trends in the region, the demographic distribution of DPS students has shifted. The percentage of White students grew by 9 percentage points between 2010 and 2019, while the share of Hispanic students declined by the same amount.

The share of FRL students declined by 13 percentage points between 2010 and 2019. This decline could exacerbate inequities in the region as marginalized students become more marginalized and support decreases.

The distribution of FRL by grade indicates that the historical trends above will carry forward in coming years. This year’s kindergarten class has 12 percentage points fewer FRL students than 9th grade, meaning as the kindergarten cohort progresses, the share of FRL students will continue to decline.

The implications are the same for racial distribution. The share of Hispanic kindergarten students is 14 percentage points lower than the 9th grade share, and will continue to decline as the smaller kindergarten cohort progresses. For White students, the trend is reversed, kindergarten is 11 percentage points higher than 9th grade, which will increase the share of White students as the larger kindergarten cohort progresses.
Central: SPF

27% of students in the CEN region are attending a high-performing school this year. Roughly the same amount, 26%, are attending a red or orange school.

Elementary

Just under half, 43%, of the CEN region’s elementary students are attending a high-performing school this year. These are primarily in the green and blue schools that are well dispersed throughout most of the region.

21% of CEN elementary students are attending an orange or red school this year.

At the middle school level, 19% of CEN students are attending a high-performing school this year. However, of these 19%, only 19% are attending a school in the CEN region; the other 81% are choiceing out. Within the region, there are two high-performing middle schools this year. Nearby though, in the NNE and SE regions, there are high-performing schools that many CEN middle school students choice in to.

On the other hand, 40% of CEN middle school students are attending a red or orange school this year. Less than a quarter of these are leaving the region to attend elsewhere.

For high school, 8% of students in the CEN region are attending a high-performing school this year, all of which are attending a school outside of the region.

24% of CEN high school students are attending one of the several red or orange schools in the region.

Two-thirds of high school students are attending a yellow high school. Over half of these are attending East. Another third are attending Bruce Randolph high school and DSST: Cole high school.

Note: Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.
Central: School Choice

Surplus capacity and few popular schools allow for 1\textsuperscript{st} choice match rates that are higher than the district average.

1\textsuperscript{st} choice match rates in the CEN region either matched or exceeded the district average this year. The excess capacity in this region allows most schools to accept all students.

There are a few popular schools though. At the kindergarten level, Bromwell and Teller both had significant waitlists this year. The demand for these schools is a primary contributor to why 1\textsuperscript{st} choice match rates for kinder are slightly lower than those for 6\textsuperscript{th} and 9\textsuperscript{th} grades.

At the 6\textsuperscript{th} grade level, match rates are 3 percentage points higher than the district average. The excess capacity at many schools in the region helps boost match rates, as do the zones in the region. However, they are dampened by the demand for Morey and DLS. DLS, in particular, is difficult to get into for 6\textsuperscript{th} grade because of its K-8 structure and also because it is a school that students must qualify for.

Match rates are high for 9\textsuperscript{th} grade, because the East boundary is partially located in the region. East is a popular school and allows many choice in students in addition to its boundary students. Many students from the Manual boundary, in particular, want to choice in to East. However, this year, high demand meant East had to waitlist some students wishing to choice in.
The CEN region has large disparities between White and Hispanic and FRL and non-FRL distributions at distinguished schools.

Compared with the overall demographic distribution of the CEN region, the distribution of students for schools at each SPF rating is highly imbalanced at blue, orange, and red schools. White students are overrepresented in blue schools by more than double their overall distribution and underrepresented by more than half in orange and red schools. Less than one-third of the expected proportion of Hispanic students attend a blue school.

This dramatic inequity is also evident between FRL and non-FRL students. FRL students are underrepresented by roughly three-fourths in high-performing schools and overrepresented by 16 percentage points in low-performing schools.

*Note: Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.*
## Central Summary & Recommendations

### Enrollment & Capacity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This region has decreasing enrollment at all grade levels driven by housing price increases and birth declines. Enrollment reductions are forecast to continue through 2024 and will be most pronounced at the elementary level.</td>
<td>Continue to closely monitor the surplus of seats at all school levels. School offerings may be negatively impacted by continued declines, and could experience gaps in the ability to provide robust programs, particularly at the elementary level. Evaluate options for strategically responding to declining enrollment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Performance & Equity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There are few high-performing options in the region, and the percentage of students attending a high-performing school is the second lowest in the district. Additionally, significant equity gaps exist in attendance of schools of each SPF rating, especially for distinguished schools.</td>
<td>Continue to monitor performance and enrollment at all schools, and consider consolidation, program changes, or other strategies, especially at the elementary level, to try to create more sustainable programs that can provide the services needed to lead to higher performance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Choice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Match rates are high due to surplus capacity and competition for most schools is low.</td>
<td>Monitor how the elementary enrollment zone affects attendance at high-performing elementary schools, and evaluate choice priorities to ensure equitable access to high-performing schools.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Northwest Regional Overview

-5%
5 Year Forecast Enrollment Percent Change

75%
Capacity Utilization
(includes choice in students)

19%
Students Attending a High-Performing School

84%
Students Accepted at 1st Choice School

What this means for our students:

Enrollment declines will continue in this region, but at a slower pace than in previous years, and with some areas starting to stabilize as DPS schools become more popular with families living in the region. This could be beneficial for students living in the stabilizing areas, as the popularity of some schools may help to increase school performance, which would be especially impactful in this region given the dearth of high-performing choices at the middle and high school levels.

For a few neighborhoods though, such as West Colfax, Villa Park, and Sun Valley, enrollment declines are forecast to be more extensive, and will compound already substantial, recent enrollment declines. For these neighborhoods, school offerings will be further impacted by low enrollment, risking the ability for schools to properly provide robust programs, specials, and support services.
Northwest: Enrollment Forecast

Enrollment declines will continue overall in the NW region, but some areas will experience moderate growth while others experience considerable declines.

forecast and capacity comparison

2024 Forecast: Change in Number of Students from 2019

Northwest Denver was one of the earliest areas of the city to experience rapid housing cost increases and enrollment declines. However, while forecasts indicate that overall enrollment will continue to decline through 2024, the student population is now starting to stabilize. In fact, high school enrollment is forecast to grow very slightly by 2024, and some neighborhoods in the region will have a little growth as well.

Aside from these, the neighborhoods of the greatest concern from an enrollment perspective going forward in this region are Sunnyside, West Colfax, and Villa Park, which are now starting to experience larger enrollment declines due to increased housing costs and the development of multi-family units with lower student yields.

There is already surplus capacity in the region, and this is forecast to grow. Yet, while there is excess capacity in some schools in the region, it is not as much as it seems. Many students attending schools in the Northwest live outside of the region and are attracted by city-wide or Pathways programs. In addition, the West campus is located in the NW region, but most of its students live in the SW.
Northwest: Residential Development

Low yield developments and increased housing costs will continue to negatively impact enrollment in the West Colfax and Sunnyside neighborhoods.

Notes: (1) Student yields are estimates and change yearly. (2) Only the top 5 residential developments are shown.

Residential developments in the West Colfax and Sunnyside neighborhoods are almost exclusively multi-unit residential builds, which have historically had low student yields. These lower yield developments, combined with increasing housing costs, will lead to further enrollment declines in these areas.

However, in the northwestern corner of the region (Berkeley, Regis, West Highland, and Sloan Lake), there is less development and more existing single-family homes. This area has mostly stabilized after the population shift that occurred because of higher housing costs. Because of this, these neighborhoods may have relatively consistent or growing enrollment.
Increased housing costs and growth in the share of households without children has prompted demographic change in the NW.

The population in the NW region changed significantly between 2013 and 2017, with the number of school aged children growing by 9%. This growth is helping to stabilize enrollment in this region.

The number of children under 5, however, decreased by 5%. This decline is probably concentrated in the south and eastern parts of the region, and could exacerbate the elementary enrollment declines that have been occurring, especially in the West Colfax neighborhood.

The overall population in this region is also becoming more White. The share of Whites in the population grew by just over 5% between 2013 and 2017. The share of Hispanics declined by around the same amount as the White population grew during the same time period. The share of African Americans and other racial groups stayed roughly the same.

Notes: Data are from the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey.
The demographic distribution of students living in the NW has shifted in the past 9 years, resulting in a loss of FRL and Hispanic students.

Echoing the overall trends in the region, the demographic distribution of DPS students in the region has shifted, with the White student population growing by 11 percentage points in 9 years. During the same time frame, the Hispanic proportion of the student population decreased by 15 percentage points.

In addition, the percent of FRL students in the region fell by 16 percentage points between 2010 and 2019. Such a large decline can exacerbate inequities in the region as marginalized students become more marginalized and support decreases.

The distribution of FRL by grade indicates that the historical trends above will carry forward in coming years. This year’s kindergarten class has 19 percentage points fewer FRL students than 9th grade, meaning as the kindergarten cohort progresses, the share of FRL students will continue to decline significantly.

The implications are the same for racial distribution. The share of Hispanic kindergarten students is 21 percentage points lower than the 9th grade share, and will continue to decline as the smaller kindergarten cohort progresses. For White students, the trend is reversed, kindergarten is 20 percentage points higher than 9th grade, which will increase the share of White students as the larger kindergarten cohort progresses.
Northwest: Elementary School Performance

19% of students in the NW region are attending a high-performing school this year. Almost twice as many, 32%, are attending a red or orange school.

Elementary

27% of the NW region’s elementary students are attending a high-performing school this year. These are primarily in the 5 green schools dispersed throughout the region.

14% of NW elementary students are attending an orange or red school this year.

At the middle school level, 13% of NW students are attending a high-performing school this year. Of these, 30% are attending the one green school in the region; the other 70% are choosing out.

Bryant Webster MS is the only green middle school in the region. It is part of the NNE middle school zone. Competition for this school and the necessity of choosing in may keep students in high FRL neighborhoods in the lower half of the region from having access to a high-performing middle school.

On the other hand, 39% of NW middle school students are attending a red or orange school this year. Only 10% of these are attending a school in a different region, though some are attending a boundary or zone school which partially overlaps with the region.

Half of NW middle school students are attending a yellow school this year. Most are at Skinner and STRIVE: Lake

High

For high school, 8% of students in the NW region are attending a high-performing school this year. Of these 8%, almost all are attending a school in another region. This is primarily because the two green high schools in the region are both small, 100% choice in schools.

32% of NW high school students are attending an orange or red school, and 60% are attending a yellow high school. Two-thirds of these are attending North.

Note: Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.
Northwest: School Choice

Competition for popular schools drove down match rates at the kindergarten level, while surplus capacity boosted match rates for 6th and 9th grades.

1st choice match rates in the NW region matched or exceeded the district average this year for 6th and 9th grades. Kindergarten, on the other hand, was 5 percentage points below the district average.

At the kindergarten level, there were several popular schools that filled up this year and had to waitlist non-boundary students. This contributed to lower match rates in the region.

At the 6th grade level, match rates are 8 percentage points higher than the district average. The excess capacity at many schools in the region helps boost match rates, as do the zones in the region. However, they are dampened by the demand for Skinner, one of the most popular schools in the region.

Match rates are high for 9th grade, because North, West Leader, and West EC high schools are able to accommodate a large number of boundary and choice in students. However, competition for smaller, choice in schools in the region, CEC, in particular, keeps 9th grade match rates lower than 6th grade.
The NW region has considerable disparities between White and Hispanic and FRL and non-FRL distributions at blue and red schools, but are more evenly distributed at green, yellow, and orange schools.

**NW Student Distribution Based on SPF Rating and Demographics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NW Demographic Distribution</th>
<th>Distinguished</th>
<th>Meets Expectations</th>
<th>Accredited on Watch</th>
<th>Accredited on Priority Watch</th>
<th>Accredited on Probation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Compared with the overall demographic distribution of the NW region, the distribution of students for schools at each SPF rating is especially uneven at blue schools. At blue schools, White students are represented at nearly twice their expected proportion and Hispanic students are under represented by almost one-half. However, there is less discrepancy at schools with other SPF ratings.

**NW Student Distribution Based on SPF Rating and FRL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall FRL Distribution</th>
<th>Distinguished</th>
<th>Meets Expectations</th>
<th>Accredited on Watch</th>
<th>Accredited on Priority Watch</th>
<th>Accredited on Probation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRL</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-FRL</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is a similar pattern between FRL and non-FRL students. FRL students are significantly under represented in blue schools, but the distribution among other schools is closer to an even distribution.

*Note: Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.*
## Enrollment & Capacity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enrollment declines will continue overall in the NW region, but some areas will experience moderate growth while others experience considerable declines. However, there is currently a large surplus of seats in the region due to more significant enrollment declines in prior years.</td>
<td>Continue to closely monitor the surplus of seats at all school levels. School offerings may be negatively impacted by continued declines, and could experience gaps in the ability to provide robust programs, particularly at the elementary level. Evaluate options for strategically responding to declining enrollment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Performance & Equity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There are few high-performing options in the region, and the percentage of students attending a high-performing school is the lowest in the district. There are also large racial and socio-economic discrepancies in attendance at high and low-performing schools.</td>
<td>Continue to monitor performance and enrollment at all schools, and consider consolidation, program changes, or other strategies, especially at the elementary level, to try to create more sustainable programs that can provide the services needed to lead to higher performance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Choice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten match rates are comparatively low due to competition for schools. 6th and 9th grade match rates are relatively high due to enrollment zones and excess capacity.</td>
<td>Evaluate barriers to student access to high-performing options.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Southwest Regional Overview

-15%  
5 Year Forecast Enrollment Percent Change

73%  
Capacity Utilization (includes choice in students)

40%  
Students Attending a High-Performing School

85%  
Students Accepted at 1st Choice School

What this means for our students:

The Southwest region has one of the more robust selections of high-performing schools in the district, and the percentage of students attending a high-performing school is relatively large. In addition, the distribution of students among schools with different SPF ratings is comparatively equitable.

On the other hand, the Southwest is forecast to have the largest enrollment declines in the district, especially at the elementary level, over the next five years. Recent declines have already led to under enrollment for many elementary schools in this region. As the declines continue, school offerings will be further impacted, which will hamper the ability of schools to provide robust programs, specials, and support services. It will also be harder for schools to maintain a blue or green rating, and may shrink the number of high-performing school selections.

A strategy addressing the declining enrollment in this region could prevent school closure due to under enrollment.
Forecast enrollment declines will add to current excess capacity, especially at the elementary level, and will make it harder for elementary schools in the SW to reach their desired enrollment.

### Southwest: Enrollment Forecast

Forecast enrollment declines will add to current excess capacity, especially at the elementary level, and will make it harder for elementary schools in the SW to reach their desired enrollment.

The SW region is forecast to have the largest enrollment declines in the district. Declines are forecast for all grade levels, but elementary enrollment declines will be the most impactful, accounting for 45% of the enrollment loss.

These declines will cause excess capacity at the elementary level, and will continue to keep schools from reaching their desired enrollment. In fact, many schools in this region are already feeling the effects of enrollment loss, which causes a loss of programmatic services as well. As this trend continues, it will be harder for these schools to remain viable.

Middle school, on the other hand, is currently slightly exceeding capacity. Yet, with smaller elementary cohorts moving through, enrollment declines are likely to show at middle schools before 2024, which will allow capacity utilization to be at an appropriate level by 2024. For the time being, though, capacity will be stressed, and there will be little room for flexibility of class size or enrollment mobility in the short term.

High school capacity is not over utilized in the SW. High school enrollment is forecast to decline by 10% between 2019 and 2024, but utilization is forecast to remain at a desirable level.

### Forecast and Capacity Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>E-5th</th>
<th>6th-8th</th>
<th>9th-12th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>10,078</td>
<td>5,533</td>
<td>4,435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Capacity</td>
<td>14,054</td>
<td>6,236</td>
<td>3,909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2024</td>
<td>20,046</td>
<td>17,181</td>
<td>8,802</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2024 Forecast: Change in Number of Students from 2019

**Legend**
- -500 or more
- -300 to -500
- -300 to -100
- -100 to -50
- -50 to 0
- 0 to 50
- 50 to 100
- 100 to 300
- 300 to 500
- 500 or more
Southwest: Residential Development

Multi-unit developments with low student yields will exacerbate enrollment declines.

The SW has the least residential development in the city of Denver. Builds in this region are primarily multi-unit, in-fill developments, and are relatively small builds.

Multi-unit developments have historically yielded fewer students than single-family housing. The lower yield, coupled with smaller developments, will exacerbate already significant enrollment declines in this region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Student Yield</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salvation Army - West Alameda</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>4501 West Alameda Avenue</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>Multi Unit (9 and Up)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gorman Morrison</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>5048 Morrison Road</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Multi Unit (9 and Up)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruby Hill Station</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1900 S Osage St</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Multi Unit (9 and Up)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Kipling Redevelopment</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>4600 S Kipling St</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Duplexes/Triplexes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1100 S Osage St</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1100 S Osage</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Rowhouses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: (1) Student yields are estimates and change yearly. (2) Only the top 5 residential developments are shown.
Southwest: Regional Dynamics

The SW population lost a significant proportion of children under 5 between 2013 and 2017.

The southwest population shifted toward an older population between 2013 and 2017, and lost a significant proportion of children under 5. This loss has already begun to drive down elementary enrollment in the region.

The number of school-aged children grew slightly during this period. However, as this cohort gets older, there will be fewer and fewer children to replace them. This will drive enrollment down even further, and will begin to affect middle and high school enrollment over time.

The demographic make up of the population also changed between 2013 and 2017. The African American share increased while the share of Hispanics and Whites decreased.

*Note: Data are from the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey.*
Southwest: Student Demographics

The racial distribution of students living in the SW has been consistent in the past 9 years, but there has been a small decline of FRL students.

Race & FRL Status as a Percent of SW Student Population

Despite the demographic changes in the overall regional population, the racial and FRL distributions of DPS students in the SW have been stable since 2010.

Percent of SW 2019 Student Population by Grade and Demographic Group

The distribution of FRL by grade indicates that the slight FRL decline between 2015 and 2019 may increase in coming years. This year’s kindergarten class has 4 percentage points fewer FRL students than 9th grade. Though small, this gap will result in fewer FRL students as the kindergarten cohort progresses.

Racial distribution by grade indicates that the consistency in racial distribution may be lost in coming years. The Hispanic kindergarten cohort this year is 8 percentage points lower than 9th grade. As the kinder cohort matures, the Hispanic share of the population will decrease. The reverse is true for White students. The kinder cohort is 7 percentage points higher than 9th grade, which will increase the share of White students as the larger kindergarten cohort progresses.
Southwest: SPF

40% of students in the SW are attending a high performing school this year. Nearly half as many, 24%, are attending a red or orange school.

### Elementary

54% of the SW region’s elementary students are attending a high-performing school this year. These are primarily in the blue and green schools concentrated in the northern half of the region. Many of the blue and green schools in this region are in areas with high FRL student population.

In the southern half of the region, there is little access to a high-performing school, especially for students living in the Grant Ranch boundary.

12% of SW elementary students are attending an orange or red school this year.

### Middle

At the middle school level, 42% of SW students are attending a high-performing school this year. Almost all of these students attend a school within the region or their boundary or zone school.

On the other hand, 27% of SW middle school students are attending a red or orange school this year. Of these around one-third are attending a school outside of the region.

Students in the Grant Ranch boundary have less access to high-performing schools. However, the Southwest and West middle school zones open access to the other students in the region.

### High

For high school, 14% of students in the SW region are attending a high performing school this year. Of these 14%, most are attending a school within the region.

42% of SW high school students are attending a red or orange school. Just under half of these are attending a red or orange school in another region. Some are attending a boundary or zone school which partially overlaps with the region, others are attending 100% choice schools outside of the region.

*Note: Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.*
1st choice match rates are higher than the district average in kindergarten and 6th, but are lower in 9th.

In the Southwest this year, match rates overall, and for kindergarten and 6th grades, exceeded those of the district.

Abundant options and excess capacity at the kindergarten level facilitate placement of most kindergarten students in their desired school. Additionally, because so many of the elementary options in this region are high-performing, demand is distributed fairly evenly amongst many of the elementary schools in the region. Waitlists for kindergarten in the SW were negligible this year.

At the 6th grade level, the SW and West middle school zones, as well as numerous school options, helped students get into their first choice school. However, demand for a few popular schools causes 6th grade match rates to be lower than kindergarten.

At the 9th grade level, 1st choice match rates are below the district average. The large high schools are less popular than the smaller high schools in the region. Since these smaller schools don’t have enough capacity, some students are not able to get in. Another contributor is the fact that several schools in the region are 6-12 models, and so have few seats available to 9th grade transition students that did not attend in that school in 8th grade.
Southwest: School Choice

The SW has a fairly even distribution of students in each SPF rating when compared with the overall demographic distribution of the region.

SW Student Distribution Based on SPF Rating and Demographics

Compared with the overall demographic distribution of the SW, the distribution of students for schools at each SPF rating is close to equal for all ratings except distinguished. In distinguished schools in the SW, Hispanic students constitute a little more than their expected proportion.

SW Student Distribution Based on SPF Rating and FRL

As with the demographic distribution, the share of FRL and non-FRL students in schools with different SPF ratings is relatively even. FRL students are slightly over represented in all but red schools.

Note: Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.
## Enrollment & Capacity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This region is forecast to experience enrollment declines in the future, particularly at the elementary level. However, middle school capacity will be slightly strained for the next 2-3 years.</td>
<td>Continue to closely monitor the surplus of seats at the elementary level. School offerings may be negatively impacted by continued declines, and could experience gaps in the ability to provide robust programs, particularly at the elementary level. Evaluate options for strategically responding to declining enrollment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monitor capacity at the middle school level.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Performance & Equity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There is a robust selection of high-performing schools in the region. However, at the middle and high school levels, small size and high demand for high-performing schools limits access for students. Despite the competition, the distribution of students among each SPF rating is relatively even.</td>
<td>At the elementary level, continue to monitor performance and enrollment at all schools, and consider consolidation, program changes, or other options to try to create more sustainable programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At the middle and high school levels, monitor choice priorities to ensure equitable access to high-performing options.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Choice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st choice match rates are high for elementary and middle school, but demand for limited seats in the smaller high schools in the region drives high school match rates down.</td>
<td>Evaluate the inequity in the feeder patterns between the 6-12th grade models and the large boundary high schools, which is likely impacting school performance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Southeast Regional Overview

5 Year Forecast Enrollment Percent Change
-1%

Capacity Utilization (includes choice in students)
95%

Students Attending a High-Performing School
43%

Students Accepted at 1st Choice School
80%

What this means for students:
The SE is a relatively stable neighborhood. Enrollment and demographics have been fairly consistent for the past several years. Overall, this is forecast to continue, but the balance will be the result of declines at the elementary level and growth at the middle and high school levels. As a result, elementary schools should be monitored for under enrollment, while middle schools may need strategies to alleviate over enrollment.

In addition to being relatively stable, the SE has a robust selection of high-performing schools, and the percentage of students attending a high-performing school is the second largest in the district. However, disparities in attendance exist and may be exacerbated by enrollment declines at the elementary level. Currently, 43% of students in the region attend a high-performing school, but those 43% are disproportionately White and non-FRL students. FRL students, on the other hand, are making up a smaller proportion of the student population in this region and are over-represented in low-performing schools.
Southeast: Enrollment Forecast

Enrollment in the SE is forecast to remain relatively stable through 2024.

Forecast and Capacity Comparison

Moderate enrollment declines at the elementary level will be mostly balanced out by slight growth at the middle and high school levels.

Existing capacity in the SE should be able to meet student demand through 2024. According to the forecast, middle school and high school capacity will both be 88% utilized in 2024. The elementary enrollment declines are forecast to lead to a utilization of 79% by 2024.

At the middle school level, on the other hand, capacity is strained for many of the middle schools in the region. To relieve pressure, the additional enrollments can be directed to the few under utilized schools in the region. Additionally, the net choice-in rate for this region is approximately 25%, which historically accounts for a large portion of the surplus seats. However, if capacity were to be further constrained at the middle school level, DPS could restrict choice-in movement in order to accommodate all residents in the region.

In addition, the moderate growth forecast in the far southeast portion of the region should be monitored to ensure that new capacity constraints do not develop.
Southeast: Residential Development

The SE has mostly multi-unit developments with low student yields. Yet there is enough development to prevent substantial enrollment declines.

The southeast has a moderate amount of residential development. Like much of the city, these developments are primarily lower yield, multi-unit builds.

Nevertheless, despite low student yields, there is enough new development and the developments are large enough to help keep enrollment stable in this region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Student Yield</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Monaco &amp; Evans Kmart Redevelop.</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>2150 S Monaco Street Pkwy</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>Multi Unit (9 and Up)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4400 Syracuse</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>4400 Syracuse Street</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>Multi Unit (9 and Up)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Block G</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>4702 S Newport St</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>Multi Unit (9 and Up)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>DTC Union Apartments</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>4811 S Niagara st</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>Multi Unit (9 and Up)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Belleview Station - Block E</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>6945 E Chenago Ave</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>Multi Unit (9 and Up)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: (1) Student yields are estimates and change yearly. (2) Only the top 5 residential developments are shown.
Southeast: Regional Dynamics

The SE region had considerable growth in its student-age population between 2013 and 2017, but more sluggish growth for children under 5.

The demographic make up of the population shifted between 2013 and 2017. The White share decreased while the share of Hispanics and African Americans each grew noticeably.

Note: Data are from the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey.

The southeast population shifted toward a somewhat younger population between 2013 and 2017, with significant growth in the school-age population. This growth will help enrollment during the next several years.

The number of children under 5, however, grew only slightly. If this growth stagnates or reverses in the next few years, the southeast may experience more substantial enrollment declines as these children move into the school-age cohort.

The demographic make up of the population shifted between 2013 and 2017. The White share decreased while the share of Hispanics and African Americans each grew noticeably.
Southeast: Demographics Over Time

The demographic distribution of students living in the SE has been consistent in the past 9 years, but there has been a decline of FRL students.

Race & FRL Status as a Percent of SE Student Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FRL</th>
<th>African American</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Despite the demographic changes in the overall regional population, the racial distribution of DPS students in the SE has been consistent since 2010.

Nevertheless, the FRL population decreased by 6 percentage points between 2010 and 2019. This decline could exacerbate inequities in the region as marginalized students become more marginalized and support decreases.

Percent of SE 2019 Student Population by Grade and Demographic Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FRL</th>
<th>African American</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The distribution of FRL by grade indicates that the recent FRL declines may carry forward in coming years. This year’s kindergarten class has 6 percentage points fewer FRL students than 9th grade. This gap will result in fewer FRL students as the kindergarten cohorts progresses.

Racial distribution by grade indicates that the consistency in racial distribution may be lost in coming years. The Hispanic kindergarten cohort this year is 9 percentage points lower than 9th grade. As the kinder cohort matures, the Hispanic share of the population will decrease. The reverse is true for White students. The kinder cohort is 10 percentage points higher than 9th grade, which will increase the share of White students as the larger kindergarten cohort progresses.
Southeast: SPF

43% of students in the SE are attending a high-performing school this year. Around three times fewer, 13%, attend a red or orange school.

57% of the SE region’s elementary students are attending a high-performing school this year. These are primarily in the blue and green schools distributed throughout the region. The far southeastern part of the region, though, has only one green school.

Almost all of the neighborhoods in this region have low percentages of FRL students. The exception is the neighborhood Shoemaker is located in.

6% of SE elementary students are attending an orange or red school this year.

At the middle school level, 35% of SE students are attending a high-performing school this year. Almost all of these students attend a school within the region.

On the other hand, only 3% of SE middle school students are attending a red or orange school this year. All are attending a school outside of the region, and most are attending The Boys School, DCIS MS, and Denver Montessori Junior HS.

For high school, 13% of students in the SE region are attending a high-performing school this year. Of these 58% are attending DSST: Byers and the remaining 42% are attending a school outside of the region.

DSST: Byers is the only green high school in the region. It is also the smallest, which limits access to a high-performing school for students in the region. It also has a 6-12 structure, which means that few seats are open in 9th grade for students that did not attend in 8th grade.

39% of SE high school students are attending an orange school. There are no red high schools in the SE this year. Almost all of these students are attending South high school.

Note: Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.
Southeast: School Choice

Overall, match rates in the SE region are 2 percentage points lower than the district average.

In the Southeast this year, match rates for kindergarten and 6th grades were below those of the district, while 9th grade was higher.

At the kindergarten level, 1st choice match rates were 4 percentage points lower than the district average. The SE region has disparate popularity among elementary schools, both within the Far Southeast Elementary School Zone and among the boundary schools. Because of this, some schools are underutilized while others carry significant waitlists.

The 6th grade level is similar to the kindergarten level in the SE region. DSST: Byers, Merrill, and Slavens, in particular, are popular choices that have large waitlists.

At the 9th grade level, on the other hand, the popularity of South and its high capacity helps boost match rates in this region. It also allows for all boundary students as well as most choice in students to attend. Jefferson, though less in demand than South, also has high capacity and accepted almost every choice in student this year.
Southeast: Demographics Over Time

The SE region has considerable disparities between White and Hispanic and FRL and non-FRL distributions at blue and red schools.

SE Student Distribution Based on SPF Rating and Demographics

Compared with the overall demographic distribution of the SE, the distribution of students for schools at each SPF rating is inequitable. White students are overrepresented in both blue and green schools and underrepresented in red and orange schools.

The opposite is true for Hispanic students; they are underrepresented in high-performing schools and overrepresented in low-performing. At blue schools, they constitute less than half of their expected amount, and at red schools, they make up almost twice as much as their expected share.

SE Student Distribution Based on SPF Rating and FRL

There is a similar pattern between FRL and non-FRL students. FRL students are underrepresented by more than two-thirds in blue schools and overrepresented by 26 percentage points in red schools.

Note: Blue and green schools are classified as high-performing. Yellow, orange, and red schools are classified as low performing.
## Enrollment & Capacity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There is adequate capacity in the region, but it is strained at the middle school level and will likely continue to be for 2-3 years, after which enrollment will likely level off.</td>
<td>Monitor capacity at the middle school level.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Performance & Equity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There are many high-performing options throughout the region, but seats at the high school level are limited. There are also large attendance gaps at high-performing schools among racial and socio-economic groups.</td>
<td>Improvements at the larger middle and high schools in the region would significantly improve access to high-performing schools and would help to lessen the current equity gaps.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Choice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Match rates are relatively low at kindergarten and 6th grade when compared to district averages due to disparate popularity and limited seats. 9th grade match rates are high, due to the appeal of the large high schools in the region.</td>
<td>Monitor choice priorities to ensure equitable access to high-performing options.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>