

# Superintendent Report

## State of DCSD

August 17, 2021



## Douglas County School District 2021-2022

We have had a wonderful start to school.

The “want to be back in school” has been a huge celebration.

We continue to navigate the pandemic and focus on each and every one of our students with their health, wellness and learning.

# DCSD Current State

## Updated Tri County - Public Health Order (August 17)

- It is our responsibility to step up and work together to make this requirement positive and to help our schools stay in person and keep everyone as safe as possible.
- Delta Variant is very contagious, we want to take precautions to keep COVID from spreading, keep hospitals and ICU beds available for those that need it the most and to follow requirements as a large organization.

## DCSD Current State

In alignment with [DCSD policy](#), “management of common communicable diseases will be in accordance with Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment or Tri-County Health Department guidelines.” This means that DCSD must follow this mask-wearing requirement as outlined in the Tri-County public health order. Neighborhood, private, magnet, and charter schools within Tri-County Health Department’s jurisdiction fall under this public health order. As a matter of state statute the Douglas County School District elected officials and administrators are required to follow this law.

## Recap of 2020-21 School Year

- Our Board of Education and staff worked hard to have our students in brick-and-mortar schools.
- Our schools were some of the first to open with hybrid in-person learning and were the last that moved full remote.
- Elementary students attended full in-person learning for the majority of last year.
- Middle and high school students were able to attend full in-person learning after spring break before other districts.
- Staff vaccinations were available for DCSD, our staff had access before other districts.

## Mental Health and Social-Emotional Learning

- COVID pandemic impacted all of us in many different ways.
- Students have experienced transitions, trauma and anxiety.
- Our families and staff are also recovering from the disruption to their lives .
- Our DCSD team will prioritize the social-emotional and mental health needs of all students and staff.
- Soft start to beginning of year for transition years and to build connection, culture and a positive start to the school year

# Mental Health and Social-Emotional Learning

- Thanks to the 2018 Mill Levy Override
  - We have added school counselors to every elementary school and increased numbers in secondary schools.
  - We have avoided deep cuts in programs, enhanced teacher pay to become more competitive, and are fixing or upgrading aging schools.
- Our strategic plan is directed toward four priority student outcomes:
  - Promote **student engagement and well-being**.
  - Prepare all students for **post-graduation success**.
  - **Improve academic achievement and growth for all students**.
  - Provide all students **equitable access to high-quality education**

# Budget

- In SY2020-2021, DCSD cut \$30M due to a state funding shortfall and declines in enrollment while navigating the pandemic.
  - DCSD is in line with the state average loss of enrollment.
- SY2020-2021 revised budget included a minimal use of fund balance to provide more solid footing in future years.
- Since 2009, the cumulative loss of funding to DCSD schools is over \$670M.
- Money matters:
  - It allows us to pay competitive salaries, address the growing mental health needs of students and better equip ourselves to navigate the lasting effects of the pandemic.
  - The SY2021-22 budget is significantly more favorable than last year.



# Budget

- DCSD received relief funding through the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) and ESSER, which must be used for very specific purposes.
- This stimulus funding supports the additional costs associated with serving students during the pandemic:
  - Providing multiple modes of instruction and learning options for families.
  - Procuring digital devices and hotspots to combat and rectify inequities in access to learning.
  - Purchasing PPE, thermometers, masks, gowns and eye protection.
  - Increased disinfecting and sanitizing.
  - Increasing summer learning opportunities and interventions.
- Newest round of federal stimulus money will serve our schools this year.

# Budget

- We appreciate the local community's support through the 2018 mill levy and bond elections:
  - Addressing pay gaps for employees
  - Added 47 full-time counselors to neighborhood elementary schools
  - Added 38 full-time counselors to middle/high schools to Improved the middle/high school counselors-to-student ratio from 1 to 350 students to 1 to 250 students
  - Invested career and trade programming
  - Invested in Special Education support by reducing the student-to-teacher ratio for elementary moderate needs from 1:25 to 1:22 and added 4 calendar days for support staff schedules
  - Helped address equity gaps in funding
  - Proportionate funding passed through to charter schools
  - Citizen's Guide to Budget will be available this fall

## Student Statistics

- Our mission is to provide an educational foundation that allows each student to reach his or her individual potential.
- 2020-2021: Student Data
  - Highest graduation rate in the metro Denver area at 91.2%
  - \$116m in scholarships for our 2021 grads
  - More than \$3M saved by families in 2020-2021 due to concurrent enrollment
  - CTE program added a new collaboration campus in Castle Rock and DCSD has greatly improved the number of CTE programs to over 70 programs.
  - For SY 2020/2021, 6,179 DCSD high school students earned 21,034 college credits through Concurrent Enrollment, saving DCSD families \$3,076,402.
  - For SY 2020/2021, 8,926 DCSD high school students participated in 86 CTE programs, earning 405 industry certifications.
  - DCSD student was named Time Magazine's Kid of the year in 2020.

## Big Rocks

Our priority is to focus on students. Remove the pandemic and distractions and we have three big rocks.

1. Professional Learning Communities
  - a. Data protocols for our teachers and staff
  - b. Metrics that implement continuous improvement
2. Comprehensive Social Emotional Learning
  - a. Mental health
  - b. Health and wellness
3. Literacy - Reading
  - a. Reading is the number one indicator/predictor of academic success
    - i. Comprehensive schools
    - ii. Read Act and reading resources
  - b. All students

# QUESTIONS?