

# HOW WE **WEEKEND...**



EAGLE COUNTY SCHOOLS

A CULTURE OF LEARNING.  
**A LIFESTYLE OF ADVENTURE.**

Image courtesy of Vail Resorts, used with permission.







# ...AND SUMMER.

Eagle County Schools supports the nurturing of one's mind, body, and spirit because only when you take care of yourself will you be the best educator in the classroom.

One benefit of living in the mountains is not having to sit in hours of traffic to get to the mountains. And, Vail Resorts partners with us to offer full-time staff discounted annual ski passes.

Plus, Mountain Recreation offers discounted memberships to their fitness and aquatic facilities.

Lakes, rivers, and trails surround us. Even our health and wellness center is free for employees needing non-emergent health care – not even a co-pay.

## A CULTURE OF LEARNING. A LIFESTYLE OF ADVENTURE.

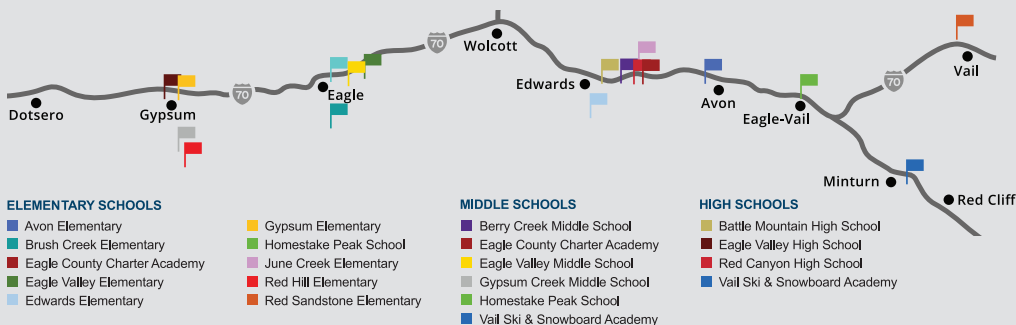


Image courtesy of Vail Resorts, used with permission.

# SMALL TOWN LIVING WITH BIG CITY AMENITIES.

The internationally known resorts of Vail and Beaver Creek bring more than skiers and mountain enthusiasts to our small community. They bring world-class musicians, theatrical productions, artisans, chefs, intellectuals, and celebrities. Outdoor concerts, mountain-oriented and extreme level sporting events, art and family festivals, and summer farmers' markets mean year-round fun. Our community is filled with walking paths, bike lanes, skate parks, hiking trails, and awe-inspiring natural beauty all around.

## 18 SCHOOLS SERVING EAGLE COUNTY COMMUNITIES







# A COMMUNITY THAT **RESPECTS AND HONORS** TEACHERS.

Have you ever heard of a community that hosts an annual gala to recognize and celebrates its teachers? You have now. Each year in May, the Education Foundation of Eagle County (EFEC) showcases community-nominated teachers at a themed event called Evening of Stars. Students join winning teachers on stage to tell them why they were nominated. We all cry. Then, after the ceremony, we dance!

And that's not all. Wild West Day raises money for elementary PTAs. Project Funway funds grants and Apple Awards, a \$500 gift to an educator each month. Dancing with the Stars raises hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Vail Valley Foundation, which supports students in our valley. Vail Health helps fund Project Lead the Way by purchasing STEM-based project materials. SOS Outreach, Walking Mountains Science Center, Cycle Effect, Mountain Rec – we have over 200 non-profits help support causes in our community.



Wild West Day



Project Funway



Evening of Stars







# NEARLY \$170 MILLION **RECENTLY INVESTED** IN FACILITIES.

In 2016 the citizens of Eagle County voted in support of a construction bond to rebuild and renovate our schools. Construction was completed in 2019, making Eagle County Schools one of the most modern districts in the state. The effort doubled the square footage of Eagle Valley High School. Eagle Valley Elementary was demolished and rebuilt. Complete renovations occurred at Eagle Valley Middle School and Red Sandstone Elementary Schools. We built a new Red Canyon West in Gypsum. More modern schools received interior refreshing, including fresh paint, carpet, and furnishings. Eagle County Schools are a shining example of what a community can do out of love for its children.



# A PROFESSIONAL MODEL OF TEACHING.

The heart of our professional model of teaching is our practice of small, building-level teams taking ownership of the unique challenges of their school and student populations. They have district-level supports to help find and implement solutions. We invert the typical top-down professional development paradigm into one of supporting teacher agency. We empower our professionals by creating an environment where teachers are driving instructional decisions in the building and classroom contexts based on their collaborative work in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and other venues.

School-based Teacher Leaders coach and support professional learning through a variety of means: co-teaching and co-planning, modeling lessons, guiding reflection, providing feedback, facilitating collaboration, and so much more.

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## Key Principles:

Recruit and retain the best candidates from the best teacher preparation programs.

Help the community hold teachers in high regards, like other licensed professionals.

Work to mitigate the effects of poverty on learning.

Hold one set of high academic standards for all students.

Tailor instruction for each student's needs.

Have clear college and career pathways in high schools.

Connect students with internships and apprenticeships at local businesses.

Focus on culturally responsive teaching that emphasizes inclusion and equity.



Educator Academy kicks off the school year.



Small group break out sessions.

Panel discussion after community screening of films showcasing diverse cultures



High school student viewing Mountain Film on Tour and Y.E.S. materials and student training.



# COMMITTED TO **CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE** INSTRUCTION.

In 2019 Eagle County Schools embarked on an exciting and vital journey of becoming more proficient in culturally responsive teaching. We strive to continuously improve cultural competence in administrators, teachers, and students to ensure supportive and inclusive learning environments. With a genuine sense of belonging, more students achieve at higher levels and understand the importance of education. Each school has an equity team that shares professional development internally, and Youth Equity Stewardship teams of students in middle and high schools help build the spirit of inclusivity among students. In our efforts, we reach out to include the community via movie nights and small group workshops. Working in unison, we have the tone and trust to tackle tough subjects and see reductions in educational disparities between student groups related to discipline, achievement, graduation rates, and bullying.

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## **Phases of the Work:**

- Build tone and trust
- Discuss personal culture and journey
- Move from social dominance toward social justice
- Consider classroom implications and applications
- Realize ongoing systemic transformation and planning for change

## **Outcomes:**

- More trust and ability for tough topics
- Increased belongingness and reduced bullying, more inclusion, and access
- Broad use of culturally responsive practices
- Reduction in “gaps” among student groups  
Achievement, discipline, graduation rates, post secondary attendance rates

# EAGLE COUNTY SCHOOLS, GENERALLY SPEAKING.

Students  
**6,882**

actively enrolled (including ECCA)  
and attending preschool through  
12th grade during the October count

Source: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/code/districtdashboard>

English and  
Spanish are the  
primary languages  
spoken by our  
students.

District  
**81 out  
of 178  
districts**

in per-pupil funding, including local  
mill levies (110/178 without local support)

**28th**  
largest school  
district in  
Colorado

## Ethnicity/Race

Hispanic	51.3%
White	44.8%
Two or more Races	2.2%
Asian	0.8%
Black	0.4%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.5%



Over 1.3 million square feet of facilities

**1 out  
of 3**

36.4% of students' first/primary language is not English



**37%**

**Qualify for free  
or reduced-  
priced meals**

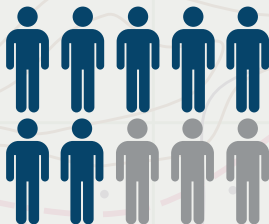
Elementary Schools	8
K-8 School	1
5-12 School (VSSA)	1
Middle Schools	3
High Schools	2
Alternative High School (2 sites)	1
Online School	1
Charter School (ECCA)	1



While these numbers fluctuate slightly each year, they serve as a good general overview of Eagle County Schools.

**7 out  
of 10**

of our students  
graduated *on time* (18-19)



**905+**  
**employees**

Second largest  
employer in  
Eagle County

**Full-Time Employee Type**

Certified Staff	548	60.49%
Support Staff	308	34.00%
School-based Administrators	36	3.97%
Central Administrators	14	1.55%

Teachers with a masters degree 309 34.0%

**Part-time  
Employees: 190**

**100%**

of teachers rated as  
highly qualified

## Instructional Programs Membership

English Language Learners	2164
Special Education	807
Gifted and Talented	589
Section 504 Handicapped	196
Immigrant	139
Online	30

## A CULTURE OF LEARNING, A LIFESTYLE OF ADVENTURE.

Eagle County Schools has a unique spirit of compassion, innovation, and determination. We invite you to be part of our team as we journey on to make learning exciting, fun, inclusive, and relevant for the diverse students in our community. Complete an employment application online: **[eagleschools.net/careers](https://eagleschools.net/careers)**, and we'll see you in the mountains!

## REACHING **HEARTS & MINDS**

We care for our students and celebrate their uniqueness.

We maintain safe environments for students and staff.

We look for new ways to engage students with learning, to connect parents with the district, and to inform the community of our mission.

We take children from all walks of life, create high expectations for their individual success, and guide them through thirteen years of education and social development so they can succeed.

We strive to inspire every student, every moment, to develop a life-long passion for learning.

We ignite curiosity, fuel confidence, protect innocence, create joy, feed intelligence, soften sadness, stimulate creativity, all while preparing global-ready graduates.

It's nothing short of miracle work, but that's what we do.

# A CULTURE OF LEARNING, **A LIFESTYLE OF ADVENTURE.**



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