

Addressing Growth and Decline

Board of Education Update

January 9, 2024

What do we want for our students?

- **Excellent Schools:** Each school is a point of pride in our community in which all students can explore their passions and develop their academic and essential skills, abilities, agency, and capacity.
- **College, Career, and Service Pathways:** Creating multiple pathways for students following high school graduation. Create a pipeline of employees for local industry.
- **Destination District:** An amazing place to work and go to school.






Planning for the Future: Addressing Growth and Decline



Enrollment Challenges and Opportunities

Douglas County is 844 square miles.

- Communities such as The Canyons, Crystal Valley, and Sterling Ranch are developing quickly and need a school in their neighborhoods.
  - Historically, DCSD has provided community elementary schools in major geographic regions. Today, we have significant “school deserts.”
  - Currently, DCSD is busing young children to overflow schools in other regions, which is creating challenges.
  - We are unable to construct neighborhood schools without the passage of a bond.
- Many homes within central Highlands Ranch no longer have school-aged children, resulting in declining enrollment in some schools.
  - Getting schools to a more optimal enrollment size provides more opportunities for students, helps level the playing field, and optimizes district resources.

“School Desert” Areas

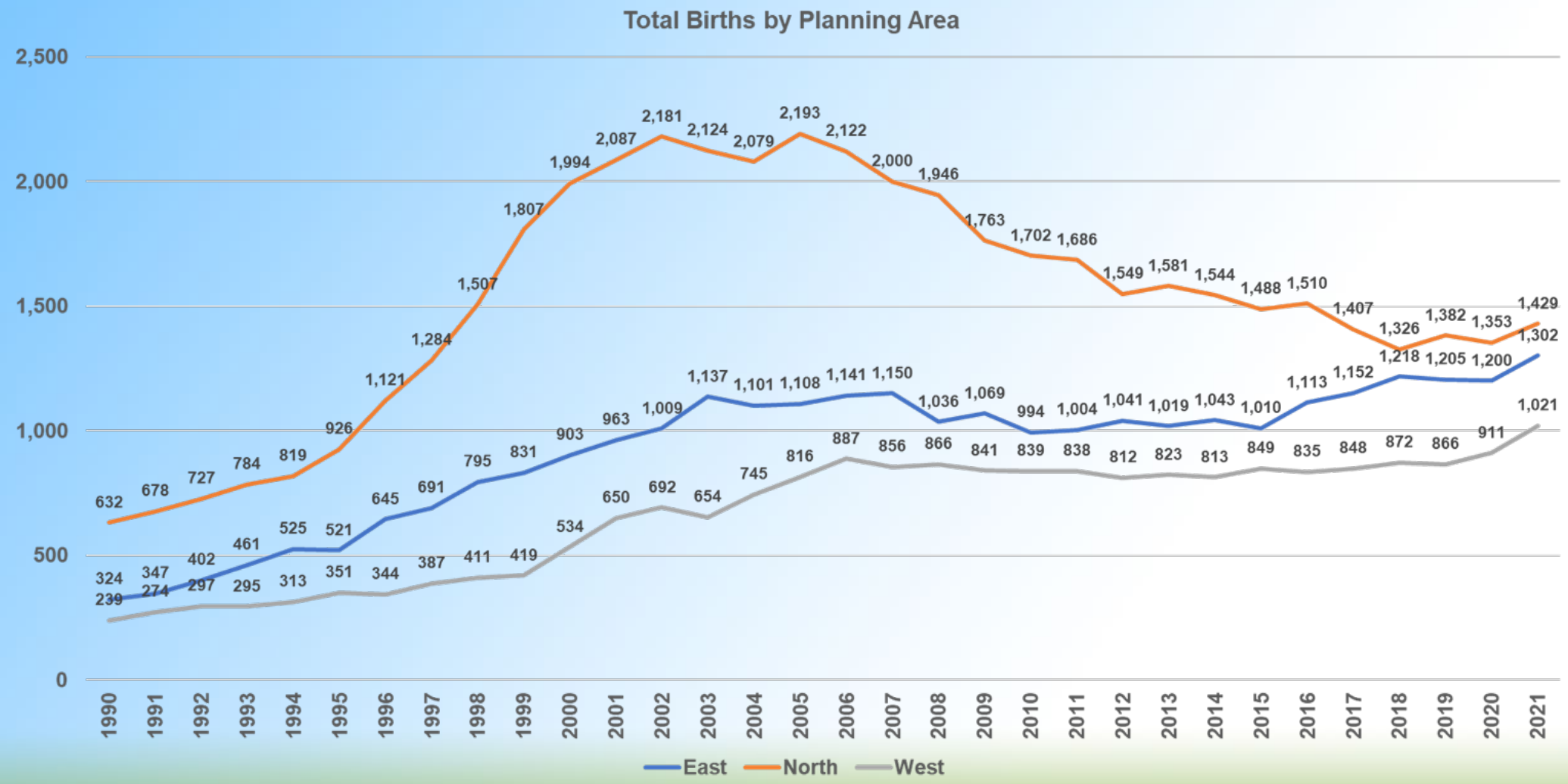
Sterling Ranch/Solstice
(13,000 homes)

Crystal Valley/Montaine (Castle Rock)
(4,600 homes)

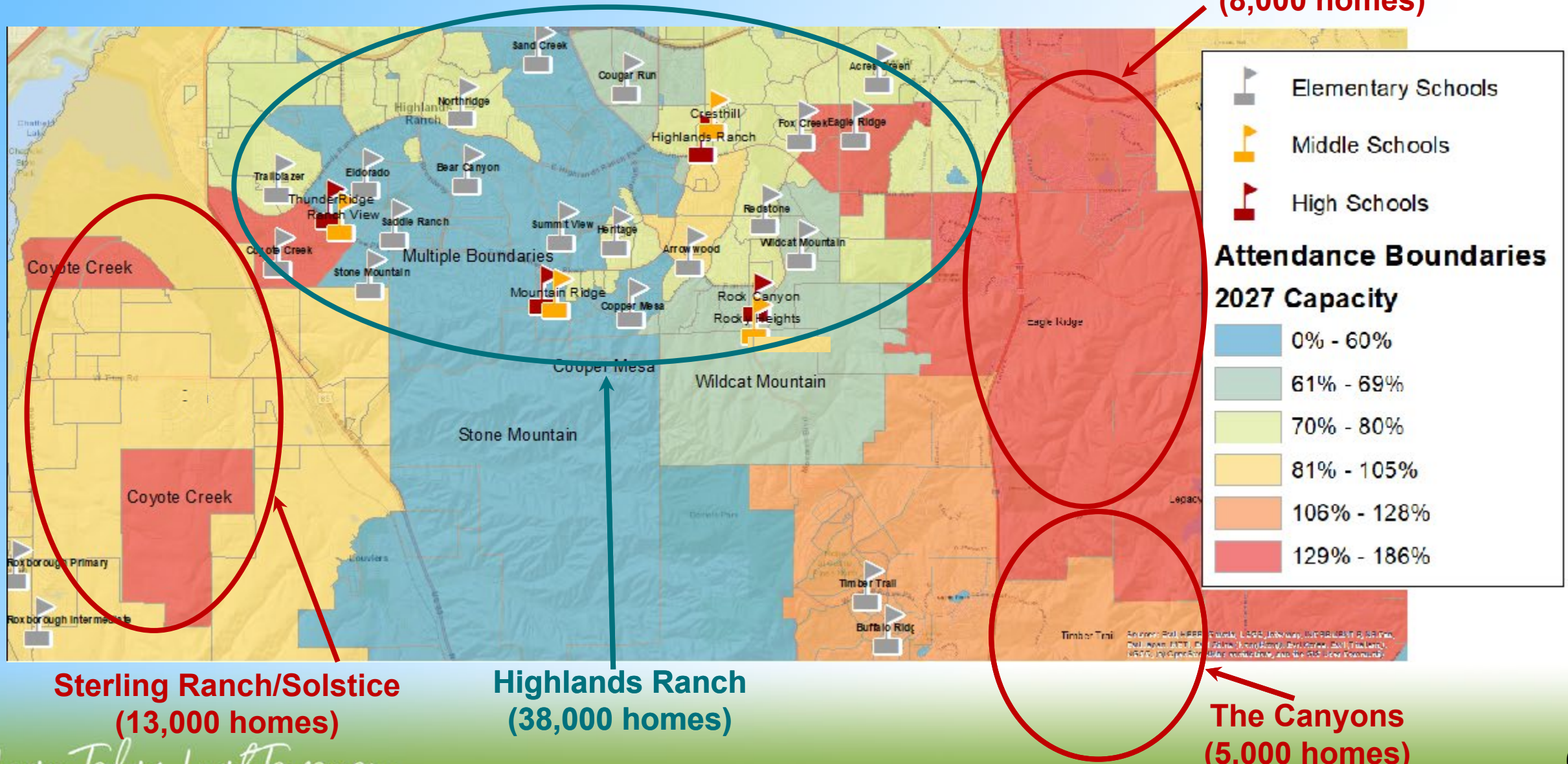
The Canyons (Castle Pines)
(5,000 homes)

Ridgegate East (Lone Tree)
(8,000 homes)

Birth Rates in Douglas County, Colorado



North Planning Area



Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow

Framing the Conversation

There are many factors at play when thinking about enrollment:

- Buildings
- Budgets
- Capacity
- Projections

But this work is REALLY about:

- KIDS
- Families
- Communities
- Staff
- The future of DCSD

Planning for the Future: Enrollment

- Develop a PROACTIVE plan (with significant family, staff, and community engagement) that addresses “school deserts” and the future pairing of elementary schools in our declining enrollment north planning area.
- Due to experiencing both growth and decline in the north planning area, the district is in a position to guarantee that future elementary school consolidations *will not result* in the loss of staff member jobs.
- The district has many uses for buildings, such as pre-K, special education programming (e.g. Bridge, Child Find), career and technical education, office and professional development space, etc., that will further optimize district resources.

Addressing Growth and Decline is about Opportunities for ALL Students

Questions?

DCSD Website: Growth and Decline

