



# State of the District

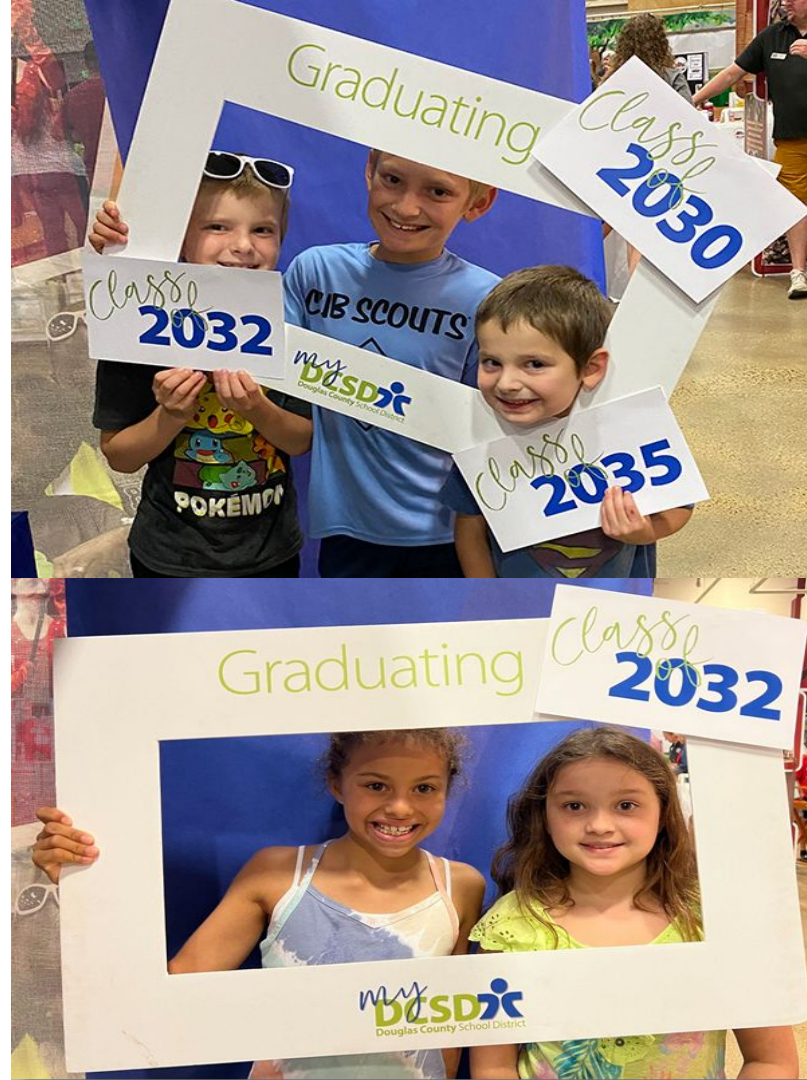


# Our Vision

The Douglas County School District strives to **maximize the potential of every student** to pursue his or her chosen endeavor in society, including but not limited to post secondary education, career, or military service.

# Our Mission

The mission of the Douglas County School District is to provide an educational foundation that allows **each student** to reach his or her **individual potential**.



# DCSD Points of Pride

## Did you know?

- For the first time in a decade, **DCSD is the TOP scoring district** in the Denver/Metro area!
- DCSD is **one of the only districts in the country** to have met or exceeded our **2019 (pre-pandemic!!) scores** in every subject and every grade.
- DCSD is one of the only school districts in the state to **increase proficiency levels across all student subgroups**.
- DCSD is one of the leaders—nationwide— in “**blurring the lines**” between **PK-12**, higher education, and industry.
- DCSD was rated **number 11** on the list of the **250 “most envied” school districts** in the country by Test Prep Insights.



# Other Accomplishments

---

- Universal Pre-K fully implemented.
- Alternative licensure and special education endorsement programs offered to staff free of charge.
- Opened the **Legacy Campus** to over 500 students.
- Over 2,200 students are accessing CTE and CE in our high schools, allowing for **unprecedented equity of access**.
- College-level programming allowing our families to save over \$10 M in tuition costs!
- Sold Westridge Glenn and acquired the Parkglenn Way building to support our students with special needs.
- Free lunch for all students (Staff, too!)
- And, biggest of all....







## Pay Increases for Teachers and Staff

- ✓ Pay increases implemented.
- ✓ Starting teacher pay up from \$45K to \$51K!
- ✓ Decreased pay gaps by approximately one-half.



## Increased Security Support

- ✓ Campus Security Specialists and School Resource Officers are hired or in progress!

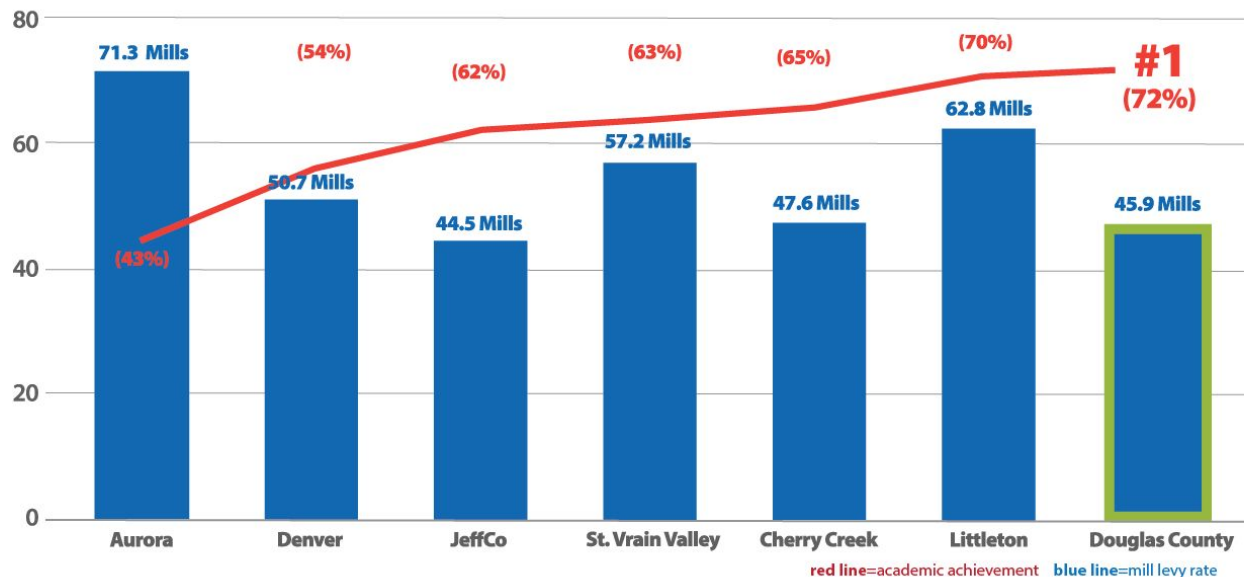


## Cost to Taxpayers (Net)

- ✓ Net change in the school district tax rate is 2.939 mills, costing \$194 on a \$1M home.

# DCSD Return on Investment for Taxpayers

**2024 School District Return on Investment**  
**School District Tax Rate vs. Metro Area Ranking (State Academic Rating)**



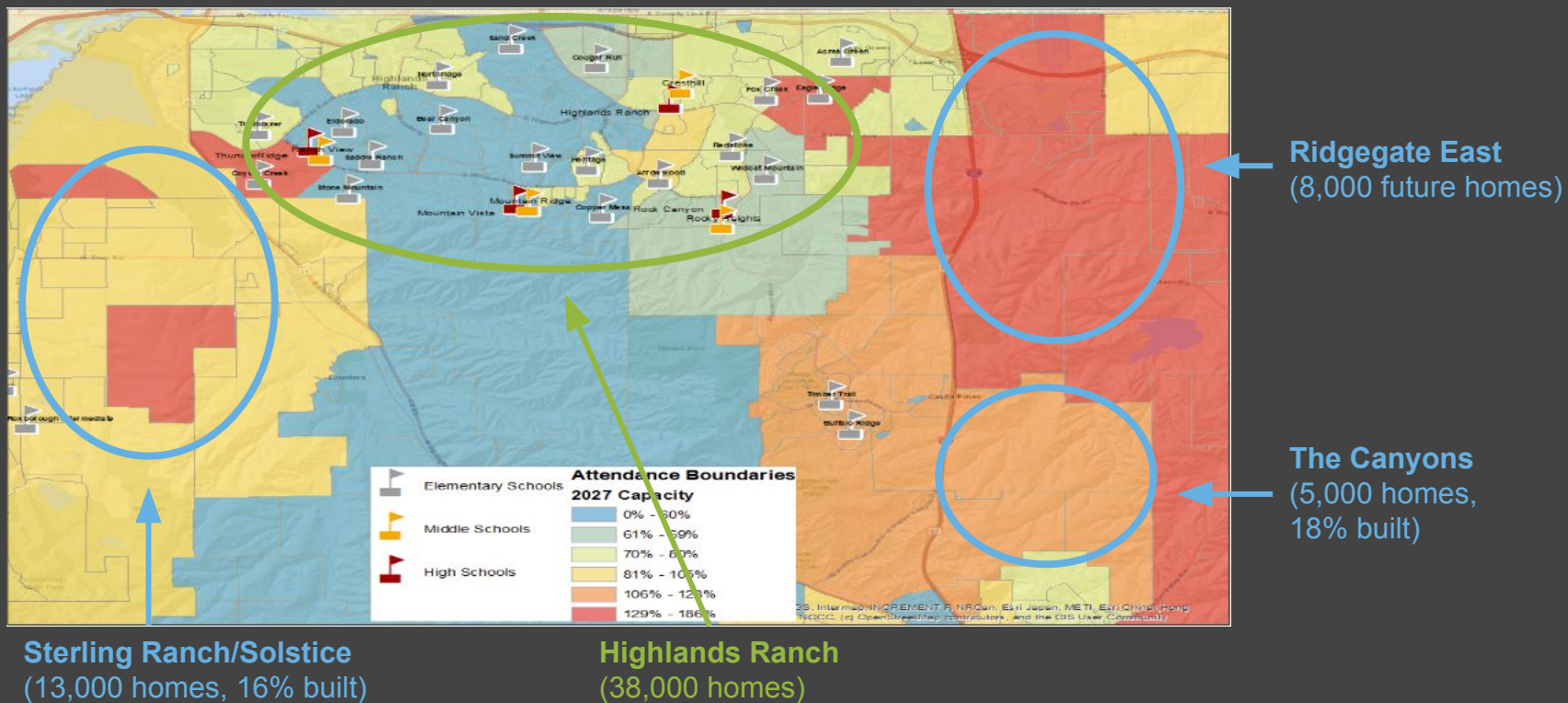
# The Reality of Losing 5B (Bond)

- The quality of our learning environments will continue to deteriorate. We will use \$20M of reserves for emergency capital needs, **but the backlog will continue to grow** and reserves are a temporary solution.
- Taxpayer dollars will be expended on avoidable, reactive, measures due to aging infrastructure not being updated.
- We will **continue to address overcrowding with mobile classrooms and boundary changes** in existing neighborhoods will be needed, moving children further away from their own neighborhood schools.
- **We will need to go back to the voters.**



# Challenges

## Growing New Communities are School Deserts





# How do New Schools Get Built?

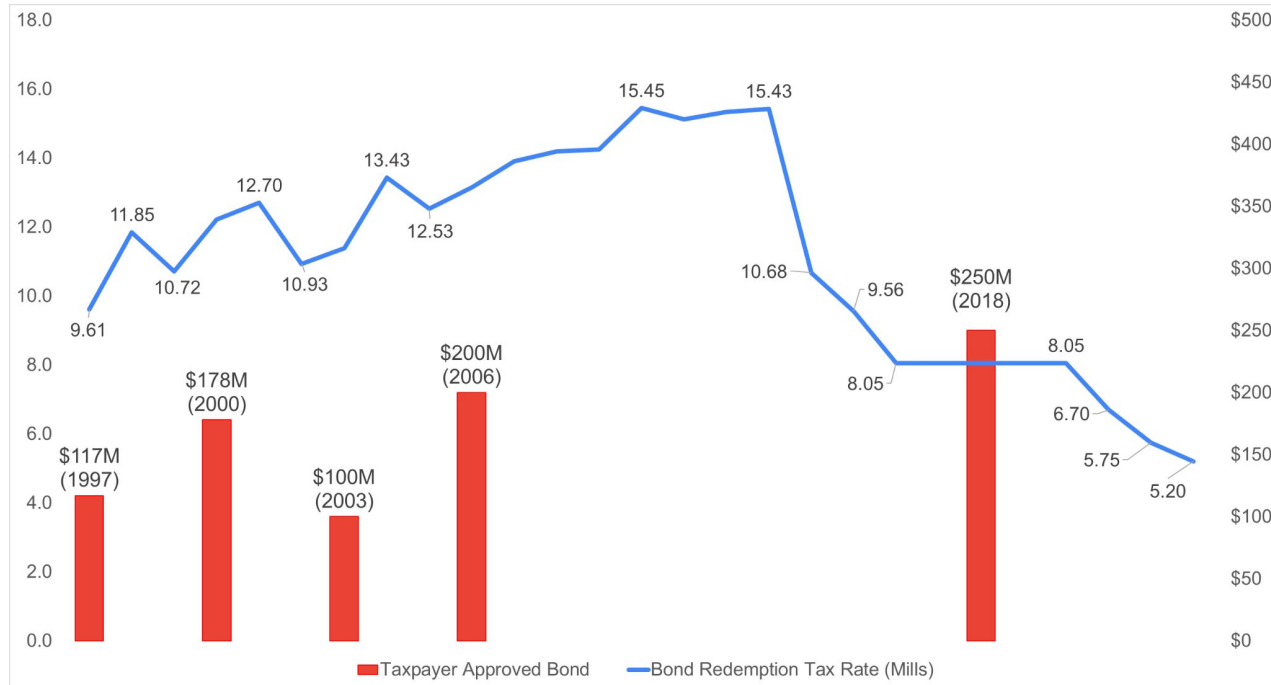
**Growth DOES NOT pay its own way when it comes to schools.**

- In Colorado, school districts generally have to pass bond initiatives in to build schools.
- Developers are required to provide the land for public schools.
- In Douglas County, developers contribute a voluntary “impact fee” for every unit they build.
  - The impact fees are used to cover growth-related expenses (such as mobile classrooms to expand school capacity or adding school zones/crosswalks).
  - Impact fees *do not come close* to covering the cost of schools (an elementary school is \$60M, a joint middle-high school is \$300M)
- Our county supported 7 bonds from 1984 to 2006 in order to build neighborhood schools, the last of which was built in 2010.

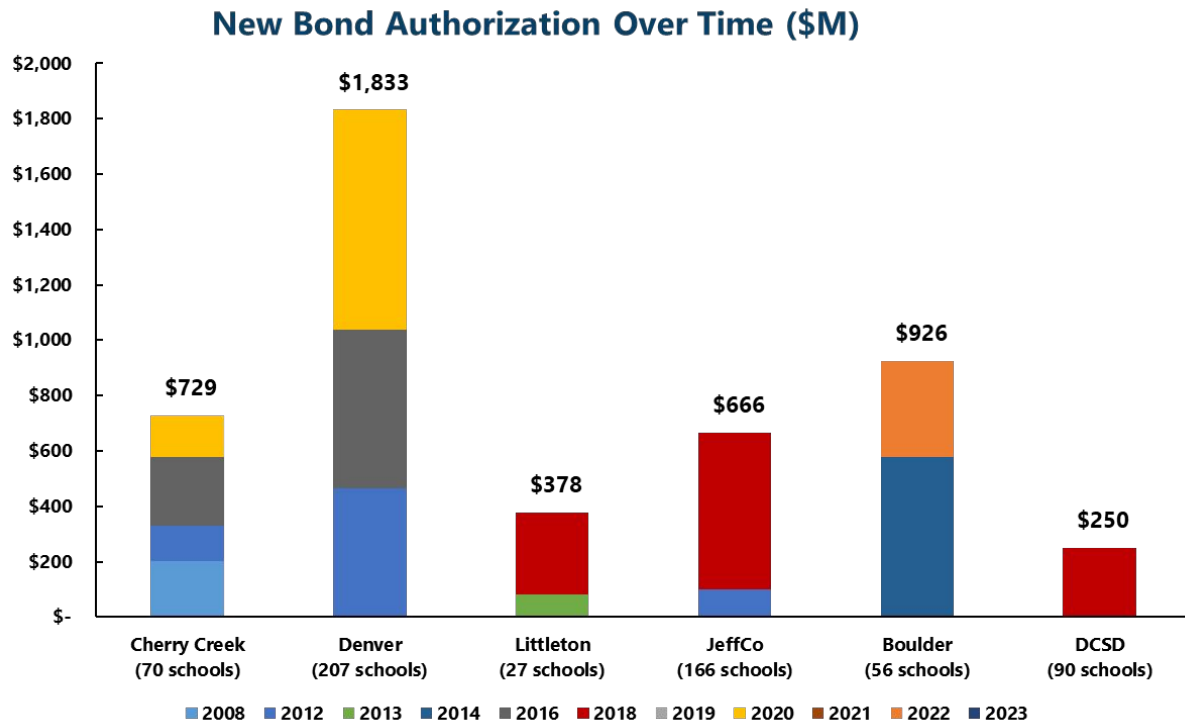


# 25 Years of History: Bond Approvals and Impact

## Taxpayer Approved Debt and Mills Collected for Debt Payments



# Historic Capital Investments in the Metro Area



# Returning to the Voters

## Options to Address Capital Needs **with** Voter Approval

- Bond for capital maintenance; bond for replenishment and construction

## Options to Address Capital Needs **without** Voter Approval

- Fund balance (not sustainable)
- COPs (limited capacity and would have to make operational cuts to pay lease payments)

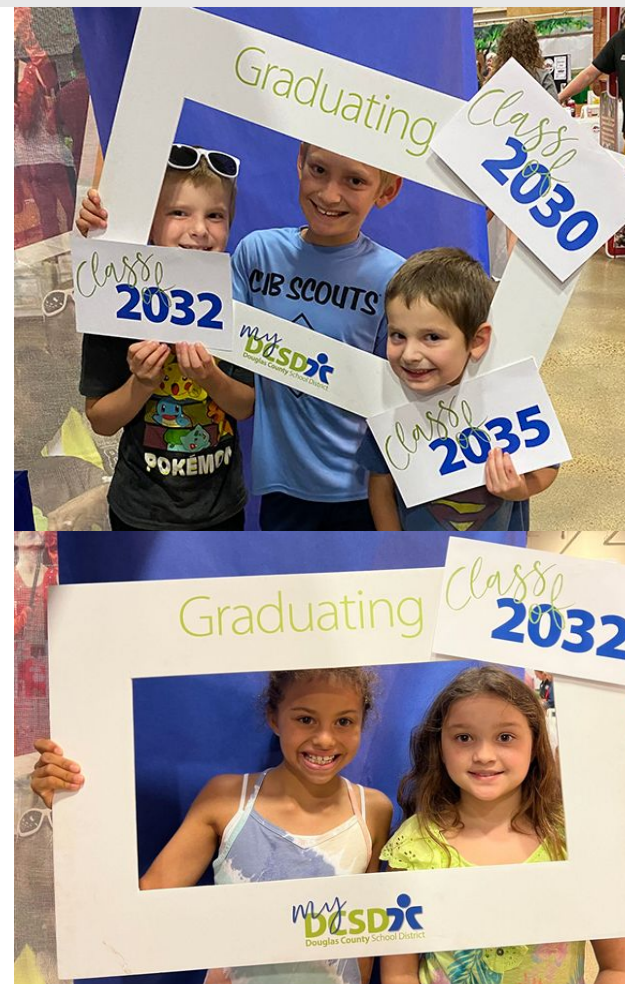




# The Future is BRIGHT!!

## What's Next for DCSD?

- We have no intention of leaving that **NUMBER 1 spot!** Let's promote **EXCELLENCE** together!
- What do we want DCSD to be in 2035? Let's **DREAM** together.
- Leveraging the world of AI as part of DCSD 2035. Let's **EXPLORE** together!
- What do we want our kids to be able to know and do in 2035? Let's **DECIDE** together!





**Thank You!**

