Highlands Ranch, Lone Tree, Castle Pines, and the **Douglas County School District**

Students residing in Highlands Ranch, Lone Tree, and Castle Pines are within the Douglas County School District RE 1

Douglas County
School District
Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow

For more than 65 years, the Douglas County School District (DCSD) has strived to provide innovative educational approaches tailored to every student. In Highlands Ranch, Lone Tree and Castle Pines. DCSD has four school feeders: ThunderRidge High School, Mountain Vista High School, Highlands Ranch High School, and Rock Canyon High School. Each feeder features amazing middle school, elementary school and preschool offerings.

Families in these areas can access the educational options within our schools that best meet their students' needs. DCSD schools offer a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment where students can discover their strengths and talents and develop their unique potential.

Programs include:

- **College and Career Readiness**
- **Honors and Advanced Placement Offerings**
- **Concurrent Enrollment** (students earn college credits while in high school)
- **Career and Technical Education** (preparing students to enter the workforce directly after graduation)
- A variety of **sports, clubs and extracurricular activities**

- **Advanced Education** (such as gifted and talented programs)
- **Special education** and related services in alignment with the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Colorado's Exceptional Children's Education Act (ECEA)
- **Early Childhood Education**/Preschool
- **Before and After School Enterprise** (B.A.S.E.)
- **Parent engagement** committees and programs

Quick Facts

- **Number of public schools in this region: 37**
- **Number of students enrolled in this region (PreK-12): 24,131**
- **Number of DCSD employees who work in Highlands Ranch, Lone Tree or Castle Pines schools: 3,464**
- **Number of teachers who work in Highlands Ranch, Lone Tree, or Castle Pines schools: 1,770**
- **Number of DCSD employees who are Highlands Ranch, Lone Tree or Castle Pines residents: 2,570**

High-Quality Schools Benefit Our Community

- Provides High-Quality Education for Children
- Keeps Our Home Values Strong
- Builds the Future Workforce for Our Community
- Attracts Businesses to Highlands Ranch, Lone Tree, and Castle Pines - Provides Jobs and Economic Growth
- Serves as a Hub for Community Events and Gatherings

Award-winning schools in Highlands Ranch, Lone Tree, and Castle Pines:

2023-24 John Irwin Schools of Excellence:

- American Academy
- Ben Franklin Academy
- STEM School Highlands Ranch

2023-24 Governor's Distinguished Improvement Award:

- American Academy

Significant Support Needs Model Site by the Colorado Dept. of Education:

- Fox Creek Elementary School

2024 i-Ready Super Stretch Growth Schools:

- Redstone Elementary

Recognized 2024 ASCA Model Program (RAMP) designation from the American School Counselor Association:

- Redstone Elementary

How a Bond benefits our town:

- Implementing safety and security upgrades at every school.
- Addressing capital improvement backlogs at our schools that includes urgent repairs to mechanical and electrical systems, roofs, intercom systems, parking lots, and playgrounds.
- Constructing and equipping two new neighborhood schools – including in Sterling Ranch, and RidgeGate – and an addition to one neighborhood school to accommodate growth and reduce overcrowding.
- Funding urgent needs to support special education, information technology, athletic and activity upgrades, and buses.
- Enhancing the District's career and technical education offerings for students.

Bond funding would enable DCSD to build new elementary schools in Sterling Ranch, and RidgeGate subdivisions and add Phase II to Legacy Campus, providing six new CTE career pathways.

How Highlands Ranch and surrounding-area schools would benefit from additional funding:

New Elementary School for RidgeGate

New Elementary School for Sterling Ranch

Acres Green Elementary
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Install new intercom system

American Academy Castle Pines
• Enhance safety and security
• Replace heating/cooling systems and components
• Replace fiber optic network
• Replace phone system
• Replace playground
• Upgrade door hardware

Arrowwood Elementary
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Repair exterior wall
• Repair interior wall
• Install new intercom system

Bear Canyon Elementary
• Enhance safety and security
• Upgrade fire alarm system
• Replace panels and transformers
• Upgrade control system
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Install new intercom system
• Replace restroom flooring

Ben Franklin Academy
• Enhance safety and security
• Replace electric and water heaters
• Upgrade phone system

Highlands Ranch Bridge Program
• Enhance safety and security
• Replace five Bridge program vehicles
• Refresh student and staff technology

Legacy Bridge Program
• Enhance safety and security
• Replace five Bridge program vehicles
• Refresh student and staff technology

Lone Tree Bridge Program
• Enhance safety and security
• Replace five Bridge program vehicles
• Refresh student and staff technology

Project Search UCHealth Bridge Program
• Enhance safety and security
• Replace five Bridge program vehicles
• Refresh student and staff technology

Buffalo Ridge Elementary
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Install new intercom system
• Resurface parking lot
• Install retractable partitions
• Upgrade playing fields and playground

Copper Mesa Elementary
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Replace flooring
• Replace generator
• Install new intercom system

Cougar Run Elementary
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Replace main electrical service equipment
• Replace flooring
• Install new intercom system
• Replace sink countertops
• Replace theater and stage equipment
• Upgrade sound system

Coyote Creek Elementary
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Upgrade HVAC controls
• Upgrade fire alarm system
• Replace panels and transformers
• Replace flooring
• Install new intercom system
Bond funding would reduce overcrowding at Coyote Creek, with the construction of a new school in Sterling Ranch.

Cresthill Middle
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Upgrade HVAC controls
• Upgrade fire alarm system
• Replace flooring
• Install new intercom system
• Replace panels and transformers

DCS Montessori
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Upgrade elevator
• Add interior blinds

Eagle Ridge Elementary
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Replace flooring
• Install new intercom system
Bond funding would reduce overcrowding at Eagle Ridge, with the construction of a new school in RidgeGate.

Eagle Academy
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology

Eldorado Elementary
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Replace boilers
• Replace flooring
• Replace sink countertops
• Install new intercom system

Fox Creek Elementary
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Upgrade HVAC controls
• Replace panels and transformers
• Replace generator
• Upgrade fire alarm system
• Replace flooring
• Install new intercom system
• Replace seals on skylights

Heritage Elementary
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Replace boilers
• Replace flooring
• Install new intercom system
• Replace playground playpad

Highlands Ranch High
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Replace flooring
• Addition of automotive pathway
• Replace auditorium seating
• Resurface parking lot
• Replace track
• Replace turf field
• Repair tennis courts
• Install new intercom system
• Replace gym shot clocks
• Upgrade theater and stage equipment

Legacy Campus
• Replace HVAC units
• Upgrade water heater
• Replace roof
• Resurface parking lot
• Implement Phase II (expand Career and Technical Education offerings)
   - Carpentry
   - Electrical
   - Advanced Manufacturing
   - Electric Vehicle/Hybrid Maintenance and Repair

Lone Tree Elementary
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Upgrade HVAC controls
• Upgrade fire alarm system
• Recaulk windows
• Replace flooring
• Install new intercom system
• Replace roof
• Replace sink countertops
Bond funding would reduce overcrowding at Lone Tree Elementary, with the construction of a new school in RidgeGate.

Mountain Ridge Middle
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Replace generator
• Replace flooring
• Replace roof
• Install new intercom system

Mountain Vista High
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Replace boilers
• Replace chiller and cooling tower
• Replace HVAC rooftop units
• Replace flooring
• Install new intercom system
• Replace auditorium seating
• Upgrade theater and stage equipment
• Replace gym shot clocks
• Paint exterior
• Repair tennis courts

Northridge Elementary
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Upgrade fire alarm system
• Replace roof
• Install new intercom system

Platte River Academy
• Enhance safety and security
• Replace plumbing fixtures
• Replace public address system

Plum Creek Academy
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Upgrade HVAC controls
• Upgrade fire alarm system
• Install new intercom system

Ranch View Middle
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Replace flooring
• Replace water heater and system
• Install new intercom system
• Upgrade elevators
• Replace sink countertops

Redstone Elementary
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Replace generator
• Replace flooring
• Recaulk control joints
• Install new intercom system

Rock Canyon High
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Replace HVAC rooftop units
• Replace generator
• Replace flooring
• Install new intercom system
• Replace auditorium seating
• Upgrade theater and stage equipment
• Replace sink countertops
• Replace gym shot clocks
• Reseal exterior block walls
• Replace track
• Replace turf field
• Repair tennis courts

Rocky Heights Middle
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Replace generator
• Replace flooring
• Replace roof
• Recaulk control joints
• Install new intercom system

Roxborough Intermediate
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Upgrade HVAC controls
• Upgrade fire alarm system
• Install new intercom system
• Recaulk control joints
• Reseal exterior block walls

Bond funding would reduce overcrowding at Roxborough School, with the construction of a new school in Sterling Ranch.

Roxborough Primary
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Upgrade HVAC controls
• Replace panels and transformers
• Replace generator
• Upgrade fire alarm system
• Replace flooring
• Install new intercom system

Bond funding would reduce overcrowding at Roxborough School, with the construction of a new school in Sterling Ranch.

Saddle Ranch Elementary
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Replace cooling tower
• Replace flooring
• Replace sink countertops
• Install new intercom system

Sand Creek Elementary
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Replace boilers
• Replace water heater
• Replace flooring
• Install new intercom system

SkyView Academy
• Enhance safety and security
• Replace heating/cooling systems and components
• Replace fire alarm system
• Upgrade lighting control system
• Refresh student and staff technology

STEM School Highlands Ranch
• Enhance safety and security
• Replace heating/cooling systems and components
• Replace exhaust fans
• Replace clocks and paging system
• Replace interior sign lighting

Stone Mountain Elementary
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Upgrade HVAC controls
• Upgrade fire alarm system
• Recaulk control joints
• Reseal exterior block walls
• Install new intercom system

Summit View Elementary
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Upgrade HVAC controls
• Replace panels and transformers
• Replace flooring
• Upgrade fire alarm system
• Install new intercom system

ThunderRidge High
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Upgrade HVAC controls
• Replace flooring
• Install new intercom system
• Recaulk control joints
• Reseal exterior block walls
• Replace auditorium seating
• Upgrade theater and stage equipment
• Replace gym shot clocks
• Resurface parking lot
• Replace track
• Replace turf field
• Repair tennis courts

Timber Trail Elementary
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Replace generator
• Replace flooring
• Install new intercom system
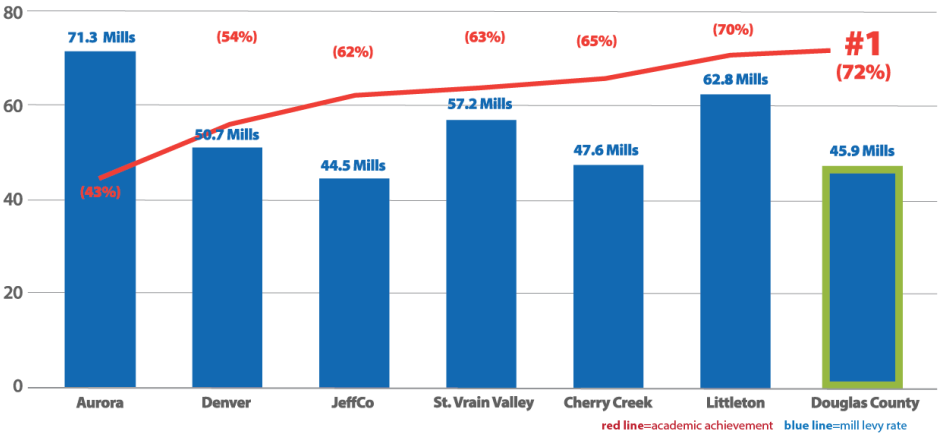• Replace sink countertops
• Resurface parking lot

Trailblazer Elementary
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Replace flooring
• Install new intercom system

Wildcat Mountain Elementary
• Enhance safety and security
• Refresh student and staff technology
• Replace flooring
• Install new intercom system
• Repair skylights

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

Chart data:
- **Aurora:** 71.3 Mills, (43%)
- **Denver:** 50.7 Mills, (54%)
- **JeffCo:** 44.5 Mills, (62%)
- **St. Vrain Valley:** 57.2 Mills, (63%)
- **Cherry Creek:** 47.6 Mills, (65%)
- **Littleton:** 62.8 Mills, (70%)
- **Douglas County:** 45.9 Mills, #1 (72%)

red line=academic achievement   blue line=mill levy rate

What Would a Bond Cost Taxpayers?

$0

A **$490M Bond** would not increase current property taxes for Douglas County homeowners.

Learn More

For more information on how schools are funded in Highlands Ranch, Lone Tree, and Castle Pines, go to **http://www.dcsdk12.org/funding**.