



The Family Connection

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Thursday, Sept. 18, 2025

Stand Up and Be Counted – Wednesday, Oct. 1

What is October Count?

Each fall, the Colorado Department of Education holds an **official student membership count**. On **Wednesday, Oct. 1**, every public school in Colorado reports how many students are **enrolled and present—whether in person or online**.

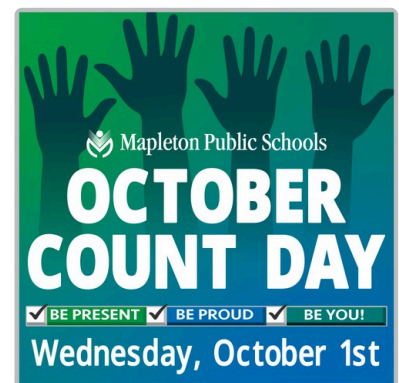
The October Count Window

While Count Day is the focus, the state provides an **11-day October Count Window** to make sure every student can be counted. This window includes **five days before and five days after Oct. 1**. If a student must be absent on Count Day, being present during this window still ensures they are included in our official enrollment numbers.

Why Attendance Matters Every Day

Showing up to school is one of the most important things your child can do for their learning and growth. Daily attendance helps students:

- Build strong relationships with teachers and classmates
- Stay on track with lessons and assignments



- Develop good habits that last a lifetime

Consistent attendance also ensures our schools receive the funding needed to provide **high-quality education and enriching programs** all year long.

Why October Count Is So Important

The number of students present on October Count Day, Wednesday, Oct. 1, —and during the count window, Wednesday, Sept. 24-Wednesday, Oct. 8—determines the state funding our district receives for:

- Engaging classroom materials and updated technology
- Music, art, sports, and other extracurricular activities
- Academic supports like tutoring, counseling, and intervention programs
- Safe, welcoming school environments for every child

How Families Can Help

- **Be present and on time:** Please make every effort to have your child at school (or logged in) **on Wednesday, Oct. 1**, and every day during the October Count window.
- **Plan ahead:** Schedule appointments outside of school hours whenever possible.
- **Stay connected:** If an absence is unavoidable, contact your school right away to discuss options so your child can still be counted.

Every student counts—literally! By making school attendance a top priority, you're helping your child succeed and ensuring our schools have the resources they need for a vibrant, thriving learning community.

Wednesday, Oct. 1, is also Colorado Proud Day!

Colorado Proud Day is an annual celebration where schools across our state shine a spotlight on local agriculture and help students learn about the benefits of healthy, locally sourced foods. Mapleton has proudly participated for many years, and we are excited to celebrate again this year!



On **Wednesday, Oct. 1**, our Nutrition Services team is preparing a mouthwatering menu that highlights the best of Colorado

- Locally sourced ground beef and cheese quesadilla
- Fresh selections on the salad bar, including cherry tomatoes, watermelon, cantaloupe, apples, lettuce, and carrots—all grown right here in Colorado!
- And to top it off...a special chocolate chip cookie from Sweets of Inspiration

We are grateful to our Colorado growers, producers, and partners who make it possible to bring fresh, local flavors to our students every day. Don't miss out on the count, or the quesadilla!

Are you benefiting from the meal benefit application?

Mapleton Public Schools is proud to participate in the Healthy School Meals for All program, ensuring every student can enjoy free breakfast and lunch at school each day.

While meals are provided at no cost to families, **we strongly encourage all families to complete the meal benefit application. Doing so may unlock additional support and resources for your student and our schools.**

When you [complete your family's 2025-26 Meal Benefit Application](#), your family receives access to additional essential resources, including:

- **Opportunities for school-related fee waivers**
- **Discounted internet, phone, and utility services**
- **[SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, or FDPRI](#)**

Your child's school receives benefits, too, including funds for:

- **Classroom resources (from books to technology to teachers!)**
- **Before and after school enrichment activities**
- **Health and wellness services**

We know the application asks for personal information, and we want you to feel confident that your privacy is protected. Your application and eligibility status are confidential by federal law and can only be seen by those directly involved with the school meal program. Your application information remains private and is protected at all times.

Completing your [Meal Benefit Application](#) is a small step that makes a big difference for your family, your school, and our Mapleton community. Only one form is needed per household, and a new form must be submitted each school year.

Please contact Mapleton Public Schools Nutrition Services, 303.853.1117, or email Foodservice@mapleton.us for more information about the School Nutrition Program in Mapleton.

Wolverine Den Food Pantry is Open!

The Wolverine Den Food Pantry, made possible by our partnership with Food for Hope, is open and ready to serve all Mapleton families **every Thursday from 9–11 a.m. with no appointment needed.**



Located on the bottom level of **Achieve Academy (9100 Poze Blvd.)**, the pantry offers nutritious, shelf-stable foods and other essential items, and the selection will continue to grow to meet

community needs.

Come by every Thursday to pick up free, healthy groceries and support your family. Everyone is welcome!

The Great Homecoming 2025

Coming together as a district to celebrate Homecoming is a special Mapleton tradition. On **Friday, Sept. 26**, all schools will release **two hours early**, and **PM preschool classes are canceled** so that every student, PK–12, can join in the Homecoming

Homecoming Parade and Festivities

The homecoming theme this year is “The Great Homecoming,” a nod to *The Great Gatsby* and the glitz and glamour of the Roaring Twenties.

Parade Schedule

2:45 p.m. – Parade staging at Skyview Campus

3:00 p.m. – Parade begins

Parade Route: The parade starts and ends at the Skyview Campus (8990 York St., Thornton)

- Right on York Street to Clayton Street
- Left on Poze Boulevard
- Left on 91st Avenue
- Right on Clayton Street, finishing back at Skyview

Festivities at the Skyview Campus

4:30–5:30 p.m. – Campus festivities with food, games, and family fun (food and other activities available for purchase, cash only)

Homecoming Varsity Football Game

7:00 p.m. – Kickoff at DiTirro Stadium, Skyview Wolverines vs. The Academy Wildcats

All Mapleton students and staff can attend the homecoming game for free! Just bring your Mapleton ID! We can't wait to see your Wolverine Pride!

Explore Primary Groundbreaking - Oct. 8

Hard hats, shovels, and big dreams are headed to Mapleton as we officially break ground on **Explore Primary**, our newest school building designed especially for our youngest learners!

Located near the current Explore building, Explore Primary will welcome preschool through first-grade students. Once construction is complete, the existing Explore school will be renovated to serve grades 3–8, creating more classroom space in one of Mapleton’s fastest-growing neighborhoods.

With playful barnyard-inspired design elements, pastel colors, natural wood tones, and bright, welcoming spaces, Explore Primary will celebrate the site’s farmland history while inspiring curiosity and joy. The building will also feature dedicated spaces for a library, music, and gym—tailored perfectly to the needs of our early learners.

This exciting project is the **second of Mapleton’s “Final Four” capital improvement projects**, made possible by our community’s support in 2022. A huge thank you to our partners at **JHL Constructors** and **HCM Architects** for helping us bring this vision to life.

Everyone is invited to join us as we celebrate this milestone and break ground on Explore Primary! Wednesday, Oct. 8, 4:30 p.m.

Help us design Mapleton's new Family Resource Center

Mapleton is creating a Family Resource Center to support students, families, and our entire school community – and we need YOUR ideas to make it thrive!

What programs, services, and supports would make the biggest difference for Mapleton families? Let us know in the survey!

From health and wellness to academic support and community partnerships, your voice matters in shaping a space built for everyone. Take the survey today!

Take the Survey!

Resources for families

I Matter Colorado: I Matter connects youth 18 and younger (and 21 and younger for those receiving special education services) with a licensed therapist for up to 6 free counseling sessions! No insurance, credit card, or legal status information is required. Sessions are available in person or virtually by computer.

988 Lifeline: A resource that aids in mental health struggles, emotional distress, and more. Call or text 988, or [chat](#) with a counselor.

Colorado Crisis and Support Line: A resource for mental health, substance use, and emotional crisis help – information and referrals. Call 844-493-8255 or Text TALK to 38255.

Safe2Tell Colorado: An anonymous way to report any concern impacting students (phone, app, online reporting options.) Reports can be submitted by calling 1-877-542-SAFE (7233), through their [website](#), through the mobile app (download via the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#)) or by texting S2TCO to 738477.

Welby Days – Saturday, Sept. 20, 9 a.m. -2 p.m.

We invite everyone to join us on Saturday, Sept. 20, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for Welby Days! Hosted by the Welby Heritage Foundation, Welby Days is a fall harvest festival and farmers market featuring a car and tractor show, local produce, arts and crafts from local vendors, food trucks, and more!

Welby Days is located at Rotella Park, 1824 Coronado Parkway N, Denver, 80229, and is free to attend.

Please visit <http://www.welbyheritage.com> for more information.

Be sure to stop by the Mapleton table and say 'hi!'

School and Department Contacts

Contacting your school: Visit [School Finder](#) to see a list of all schools and their contact information.

[Athletics](#)

[Career and Technical Education](#)

[Curriculum and Instruction](#)

[District Performing Arts](#)

[Early Childhood Education \(preschool\)](#)

[Health Services](#)

[Junior Air Force ROTC](#)

[Nutrition Services](#)

[Transportation](#)

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Mapleton is hiring! Check out our current opportunities!



Mapleton Public Schools

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