

# Boundaries and Articulation Area Analysis Project Update



# About FLO Analytics

- **Experienced**—We have assisted public school districts of all sizes across the nation with school boundary analysis initiatives and other long-range planning projects.
- **Innovative**—We use custom tools and procedures that promote transparency and public buy-in.
- **Equity Focused**—As a company, we strongly believe that all students should have access to educational opportunities that best meet their individual needs.
- **Committed to Community**—Our mission, no matter the geography or size of the project, is to improve communities. This means our primary goal is a long-term positive outcome, not only for the District but also for all students, their parents, and the broader community.

## OUR AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Student Enrollment Forecasting
- Boundary Adjustments
- Special Program Analysis
- School Capacity and Utilization Analysis
- School Choice Analysis
- Communications and Community Engagement
- Electoral Redistricting



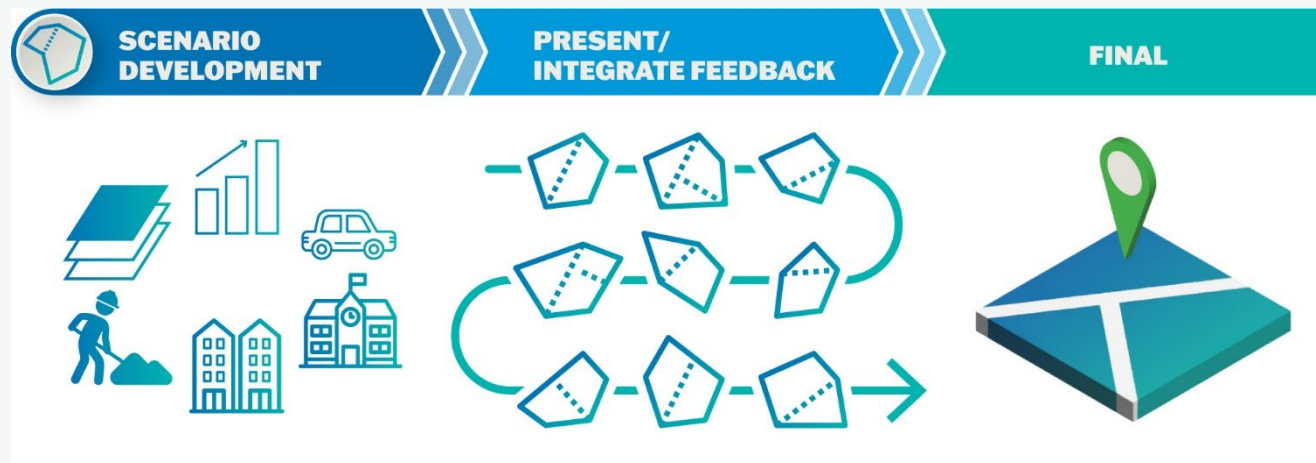
# Purpose of the Project

## Why we are doing this work

- Since 2001, Jeffco has experienced a shift in demographics, which has led to declining enrollment.
- Birth rates have slowed, and the affordability and availability of housing has resulted in fewer families with school-age children in Jeffco.
- As the school-age population has shrunk, some District schools have become significantly under-enrolled, and buildings underutilized.

## Project objectives

FLO is conducting a comprehensive study of the district's current school boundaries, articulation patterns, and enrollment patterns.



# Project Overview

Enrollment Trends, Boundary Alignment, and Enrollment Analysis

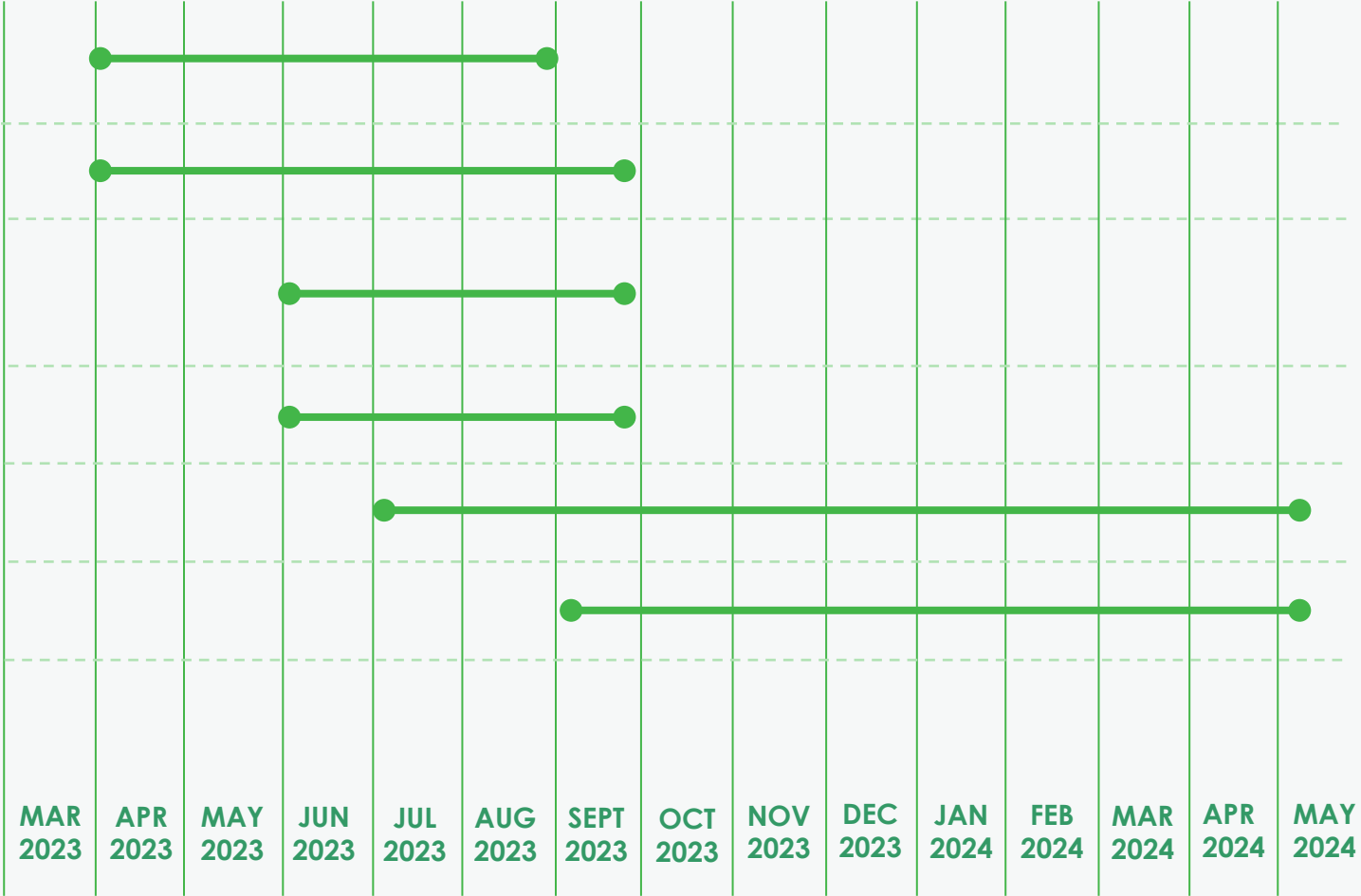
School Choice Analysis

Current Enrollment and Enrollment Projections Analysis

School Program Analysis

Boundary Scenario Modeling

Community Engagement





# **Enrollment Trends, Boundary Alignment, and Enrollment Analysis**

# Enrollment Analysis

FLO Analytics has completed the Enrollment Trends and Boundary Alignment assessment, to analyze historical student enrollment, demographic characteristics, residential development, and prior changes to school boundaries and articulation areas.

The results of this analysis provide a historical understanding of enrollment trends.

This analysis will serve as a foundation for future analyses to understand current enrollment across the district (including special program access and school choice) and identification of potential boundary changes.

# Enrollment has Declined Since 2013-14

Jeffco enrollment declined by 10.4 percent since 2013-14, with enrollment peaking between 2015-16 and 2019-20.

Enrollment declines have occurred throughout the district in nearly all 17 articulation areas, with a decline in student density across the district since 2017-18.

| Articulation Area | Year  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                   | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  | 2020  | 2021  | 2022  |
| Alameda           | 3,616 | 3,382 | 3,254 | 3,222 | 3,105 | 2,982 | 2,962 | 2,850 | 2,569 | 2,541 |
| Arvada            | 4,292 | 4,256 | 4,326 | 4,107 | 4,037 | 3,856 | 3,700 | 3,448 | 3,184 | 3,036 |
| Arvada West       | 4,491 | 4,519 | 4,471 | 4,400 | 4,452 | 4,407 | 4,425 | 4,302 | 4,305 | 4,472 |
| Bear Creek        | 5,922 | 5,838 | 5,734 | 5,578 | 5,457 | 5,250 | 5,139 | 4,971 | 4,792 | 4,619 |
| Chatfield         | 6,232 | 6,319 | 6,163 | 6,029 | 6,164 | 6,143 | 6,121 | 5,759 | 5,579 | 5,455 |
| Columbine         | 4,388 | 4,366 | 4,331 | 4,348 | 4,272 | 4,142 | 4,180 | 3,961 | 3,912 | 3,841 |
| Conifer           | 2,277 | 2,260 | 2,262 | 2,277 | 2,377 | 2,342 | 2,342 | 2,205 | 2,162 | 2,190 |
| Dakota Ridge      | 4,578 | 4,602 | 4,502 | 4,509 | 4,419 | 4,339 | 4,370 | 4,196 | 4,058 | 3,936 |
| Evergreen         | 2,794 | 2,868 | 2,901 | 3,028 | 3,030 | 2,967 | 2,934 | 2,672 | 2,514 | 2,479 |
| Golden            | 4,161 | 4,112 | 4,108 | 4,164 | 4,363 | 4,302 | 4,303 | 4,134 | 3,985 | 3,997 |
| Green Mountain    | 3,876 | 3,924 | 3,896 | 3,881 | 3,829 | 3,749 | 3,776 | 3,664 | 3,499 | 3,512 |
| Jefferson         | 1,986 | 1,958 | 2,127 | 2,026 | 1,916 | 1,805 | 1,658 | 1,520 | 1,393 | 1,357 |
| Lakewood          | 4,546 | 4,624 | 4,573 | 4,580 | 4,490 | 4,458 | 4,303 | 4,210 | 3,942 | 3,794 |
| Pomona            | 3,417 | 3,471 | 3,416 | 3,336 | 3,236 | 3,154 | 3,080 | 2,874 | 2,689 | 2,464 |
| Ralston Valley    | 4,728 | 4,870 | 5,003 | 5,100 | 5,283 | 5,390 | 5,616 | 5,454 | 5,390 | 5,463 |
| Standley Lake     | 4,671 | 4,675 | 4,655 | 4,525 | 4,521 | 4,433 | 4,319 | 4,116 | 3,799 | 3,690 |
| Wheat Ridge       | 4,148 | 4,016 | 4,425 | 4,076 | 4,005 | 3,886 | 3,829 | 3,690 | 3,581 | 3,527 |

# Enrollment Declines Mainly Due to Population Loss

The decline in school-age population in the last ten years (4.1 percent) was even greater than the decline in enrollment in the district, suggesting that membership decline was attributable to population loss, not to enrollment in private schools or net transfers.

A high percentage of Jefferson County children enrolled in K-12 schools attended public schools (90.6 percent) according to the most recent American Community Survey data.

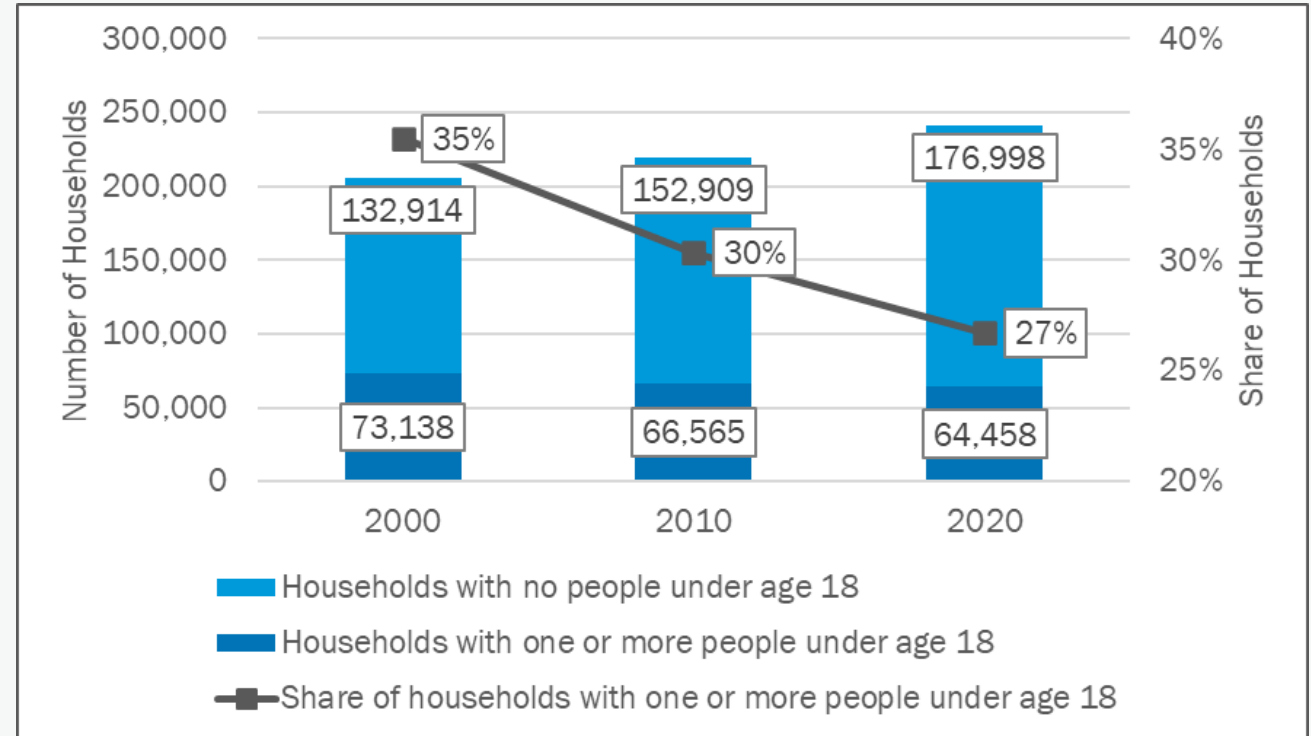
| Jeffco Membership and School-Age Population                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 2009-10 | 2019-20 | Percent Change |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|----------------|
| Membership <sup>(a)</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 83,421  | 81,266  | -2.6%          |
| School-Age Population <sup>(b)</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 89,371  | 85,751  | -4.1%          |
| Ratio of Membership to Population                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 0.933   | 0.948   |                |
| <p><sup>(a)</sup>Membership includes district residents and incoming transfer students.</p> <p><sup>(b)</sup>Approximate population age 5 to 17 at the beginning of the school year, based on single year of age counts from the U.S. Census conducted on April 1 of the school year.</p> |         |         |                |



# Smaller Families, Less Development

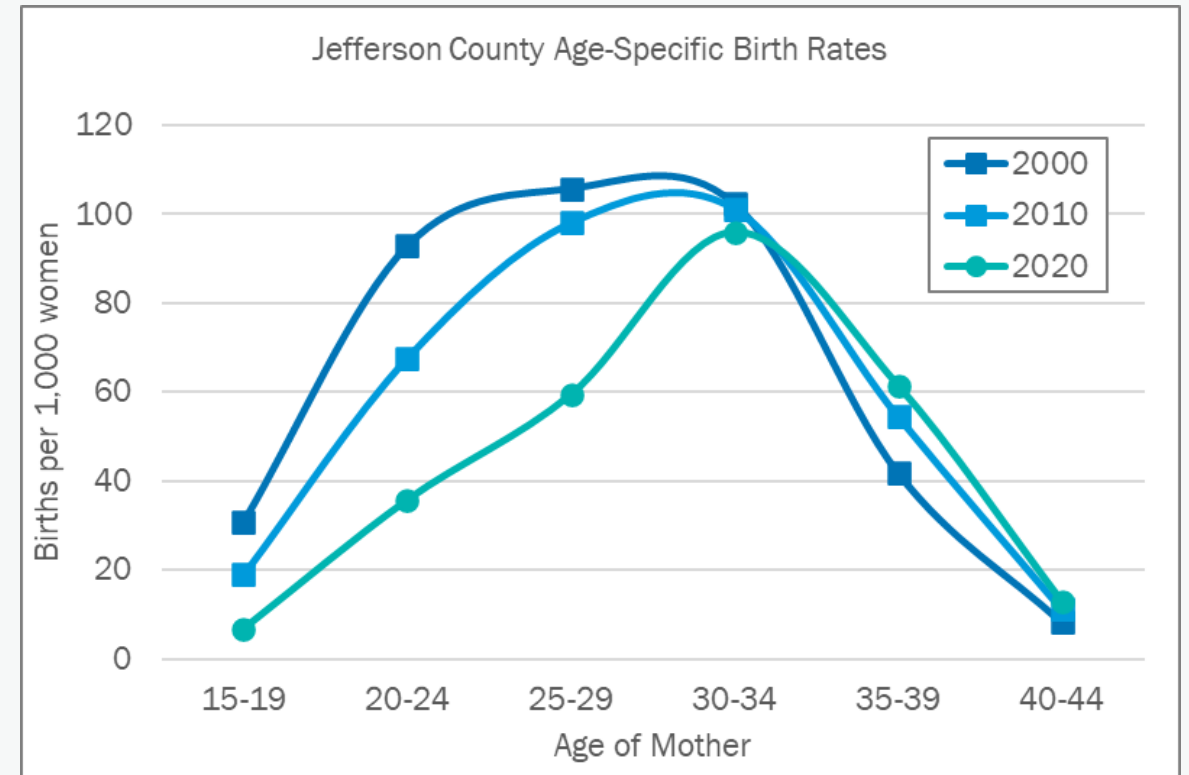
Jeffco had a 33 percent increase in the number of households without children in 2020 compared to 2000, indicating a significant change in household composition.

Development is generally decreasing throughout the district, but some larger planned developments could affect enrollment in those areas in the future.



# Lower Birth Rates

From 2000 to 2020, total fertility rates (the number of children that would be expected to be born to a woman over her childbearing years) in Jefferson County declined from 1.91 to 1.36 and were lower than the national average for the same



# Impact of Boundary Changes

| Grade Group | Total Boundary Changes 2013-14 to 2022-23 | Was Enrollment Balanced? |    |         |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----|---------|
|             |                                           | Yes                      | No | Unclear |
| Elementary  | 22                                        | 11                       | 7  | 4       |
| Middle      | 13                                        | 5                        | 4  | 4       |
| High        | 9                                         | 7                        | 2  | 0       |

Only one half of the boundary changes implemented in the last ten years resulted in an enrollment balancing effect within two years, indicating there are factors other than a boundary change that may have a larger impact on where students attend school.

The high number of boundary changes that took effect in 2017–18 appear to have had a subsequent, although delayed, effect on balanced enrollment at the district level, with middle school changes having the largest effect.

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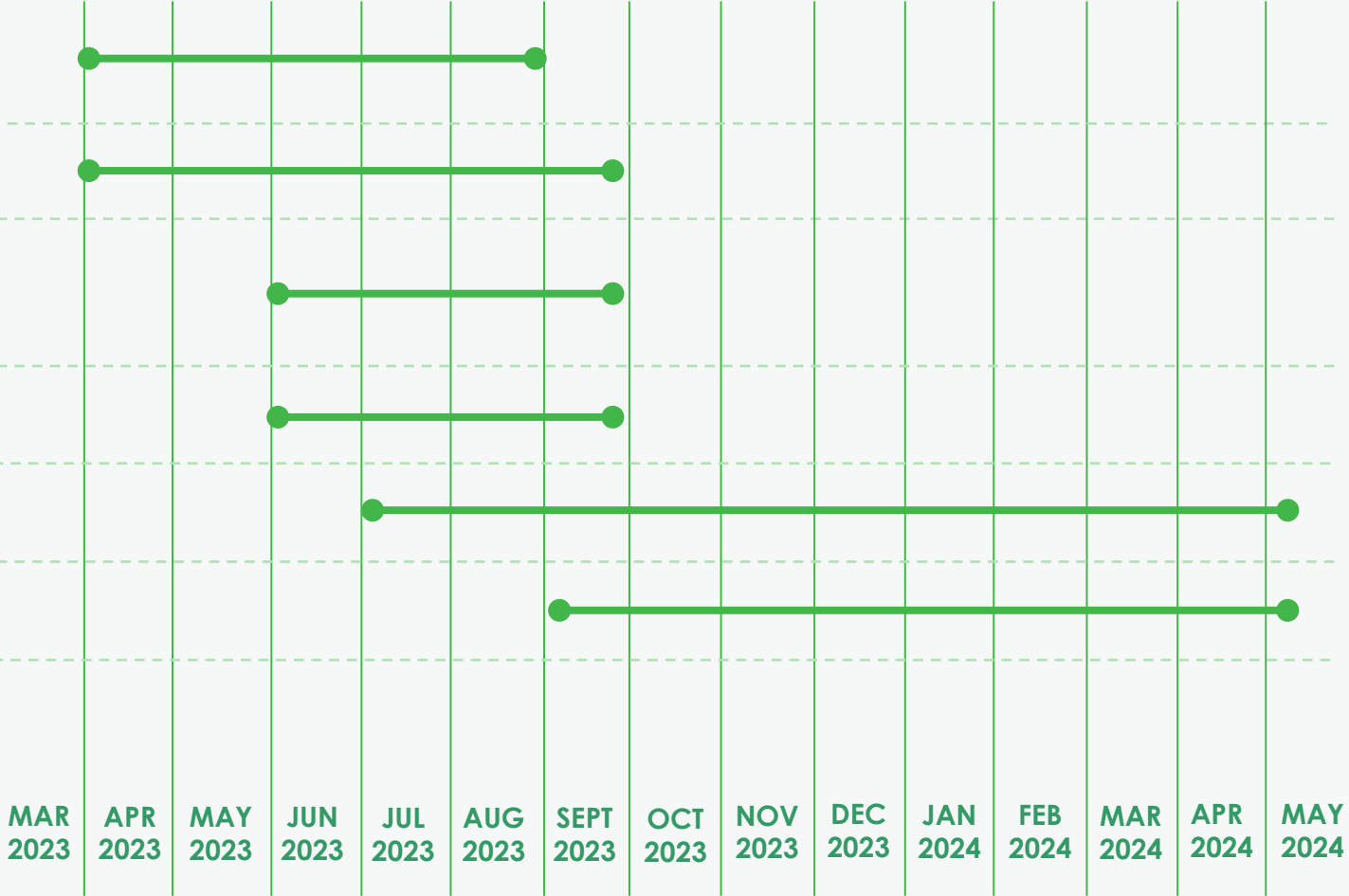
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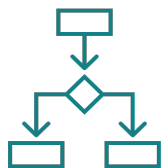


# Community Engagement



### Phase 1(September– November)

Survey on how and why families and students make school choice decisions



### About Your School Enrollment Decisions

Understanding what factors contribute to family and students' school preferences.



### About School Programming

Understanding how school programming influenced school choice decisions and what additional programming families and students are seeking in their communities.



# Community Engagement