



Elevating the futures of
EVERY STUDENT. EVERY DAY.



REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY 2026

LEWIS-PALMER SCHOOL DISTRICT 38

A message from SUPERINTENDENT Amber Whetstine

**"Together, we can grow
productive citizens ready for
life after high school."**

As I reflect on the many achievements of D38 students and staff, I am reminded of what is possible when a community comes together to support education. Our mission is centered around partnering with parents, educators, and our community to prepare students for success. This collaboration allows us to deliver excellent learning experiences. Our community truly values education, and together, we can grow productive citizens ready for life after high school.

As I look ahead, I am excited about the possibilities. Our staff are genuinely committed to our core values that support students and engage families. Our forward-thinking Board of Education has defined strategic priorities that will keep the best interests of students at the forefront. Our strong community connections and involved families will help ensure we deliver on our vision of elevating every student, every day.

I am grateful for everyone in our D38 community, and I invite you to read this report to see examples of what makes D38 the best place to learn. Our small community is a place with big opportunities!



Board members pictured left to right: Tim Bennett, Patti Shank, Ron Schwarz, Ginger Schaaf, Todd Brown.

Meet the BOARD

Our Board of Education is a group of five volunteer directors who serve four-year terms, with the terms staggered to ensure continuity and stability. Elections are nonpartisan and conducted during election cycles in odd-numbered years. While members must reside in the director district they serve, all directors are elected by voters districtwide.

We thank our Board of Education members, past and present, for serving the students and staff of Lewis-Palmer School District 38.

 **Ron Schwarz, President** - District 4
Elected Nov. 5, 2019; Re-elected Nov. 7, 2023; Term expires November 2027.

 **Patti Shank, Ph.D, Vice President** - District 2
Elected Nov. 7, 2023; Term expires November 2027.

 **Todd Brown, Treasurer** - District 5
Elected Nov. 7, 2023; Term expires November 2027.

 **Ginger Schaaf, Secretary** - District 3
Elected Nov. 4, 2025; Term expires November 2029.

 **Tim Bennett, Director** - District 1
Elected November 4, 2025; Term expires November 2029.



Learn more about Board of Education activities on our BOE webpage.

EXCELLENCE

across our schools



The strength of D38 lies in its people. Our staff and students consistently go above expectations, earning notable achievements in 2025 that reflect excellence in learning, leadership, and service.

- **Colorado Air & Space Forces Association Teacher of the Year** - Amy Robinson, Science Teacher, and Gifted and Talented Facilitator at LPMS
- **Harbor Freight Tools for Schools \$10,000 Grant Recipient** - Andy Vrieze, CTE Teacher at LPHS
- **SHAPE Colorado Adapted P.E. Teacher of Year** - Jaci Schatz, P.E. Teacher at LPHS
- **National History Day State Qualifiers** - LPMS students
- **Colorado All-State Choir** - Students from LPMS, PRHS, and LPHS
- **Colorado All-State Orchestra** - Students from PRHS and LPHS
- **Colorado All-State Honor Band** - Students from PRHS and LPHS
- **HOSA (Future Health Professionals) State Awards** - LPHS students
- **National Merit Scholarship Finalists** - Jaithan McEchron (LPHS), Kai Jones (LPHS), and Connick Goodwin (PRHS)
- **National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists** - Rhett Jones (PRHS) and Nicholas Berthelotte (LPHS)
- **Colorado's Best High Schools Recognition from Money Inc. Magazine** - LPHS
- **Bearbotics Oklahoma Regional Champions** - FRC Team 4068
- **State Scholastic Art Awards** - Students from PRHS
- **Speech and Debate State Champions** - LPHS and PRHS students
- **DECA Internationals Qualifiers and Gold Certification Award** - PRHS students
- **Unified State Basketball Champions** - D38 Unified Team
- **SkillsUSA Bronze Medal** - William McJoynt for welding, PRHS
- **Colorado Science & Engineering Fair Award** - Ella Blakely, PRHS
- **4A CHSAA Swimming and Diving State Championships** - LPHS student-athletes
- **Colorado State Track & Field Triple Jump Champion** - Joseph Kitonsa, LPHS
- **Colorado State Track & Field Shotput Champion** - Owen Twesme, PRHS
- **Pikes Peak Athletic Conference & Regional Champions** - Girls Softball, PRHS
- **Pikes Peak Athletic Conference & Regional Champions** - Girls Volleyball, LPHS
- **4A CHSAA Football State Runner-Up** - PRHS





OUR FOCUS & FOUNDATION

OUR MISSION

LEWIS-PALMER SCHOOL DISTRICT 38 IS A PARTNERSHIP OF PARENTS, THE COMMUNITY, AND EDUCATORS THAT ASPIRES TO PREPARE OUR STUDENTS TO BE SUCCESSFUL LEARNERS, PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS, AND CARING CONTRIBUTORS TO SOCIETY. LPSD SEEKS TO DEVELOP EACH STUDENT'S TALENTS IN A SAFE, NURTURING ENVIRONMENT AND TO INSPIRE A LIFELONG LOVE OF LEARNING.

Guided by Core Values

Our staff is guided by a set of core values. These values represent what we believe are most important for supporting students and engaging with our families and community.

» **Excellence** - Our people are continuously improving, striving for achievement, and creating results.

» **Integrity** - Our people are genuinely authentic and demonstrate courage in their honest character.

» **Connection** - Our people work collaboratively, demonstrating empathy in building relationships.

» **Respect** - Our people are diverse, kind, compassionate, and committed to creating a sense of belonging.

» **Growth** - Our people exhibit bold risk-taking through constant learning and persistent hope.

Dedicated to Strategic Priorities

Our work is focused on six key strategic priorities. These areas represent what is most important for ensuring we serve the best interests of our students.

» **Safe & Healthy Schools** - We commit to providing schools where students feel safe to learn and grow, and staff feel confident and equipped in supporting the academic, physical, and emotional well-being of learners.

» **Academic Excellence** - We prioritize providing an exceptional education for every student, every day. We focus on academic achievement and growth through instruction, intervention, enrichment, and extracurricular opportunities.

» **Valuing Our People** - We demonstrate care and respect for every individual, so we can ensure that our staff will choose to make D38 their career home.

» **Operations & Facility Planning** - We provide safe, clean, and productive facilities that enhance learning in a 21st century environment, along with access to healthy meals and quality transportation.

» **Fiscal Stewardship** - We stand behind responsible fiscal management with a commitment to transparent financial practices and regulatory compliance, and ensure efficient and effective use of resources.

» **Relationships & Communications** - We build mutually beneficial relationships to grow our mission. We believe positive collaboration will serve as a strong foundation for our students' academic achievements.

OUR VISION

ELEVATING THE FUTURES OF EVERY STUDENT, EVERY DAY.

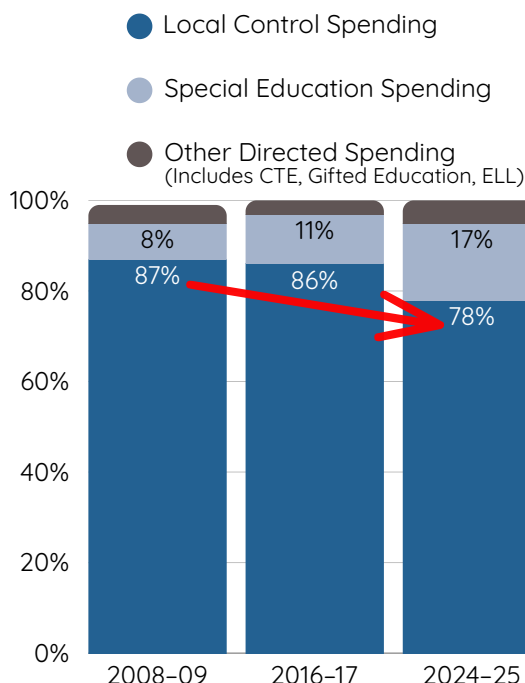
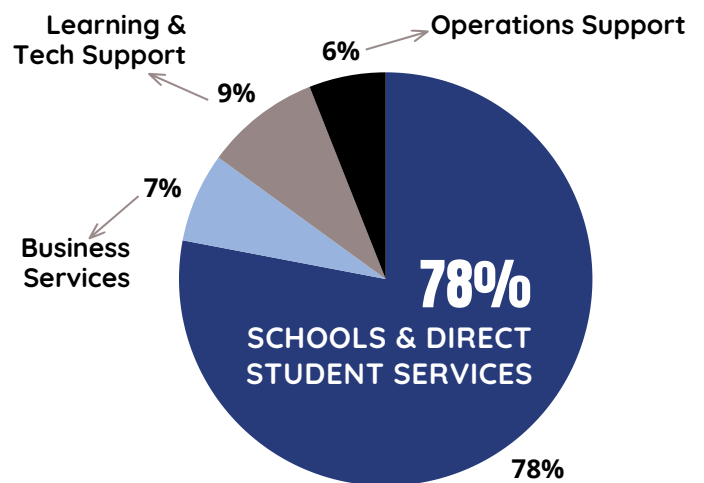


FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

We're dedicated to helping our community understand school finance. In Colorado, the School Finance Act (SFA) defines a formula that determines the amount of operational funding each school district receives annually. This funding comes from a combination of both local and state tax dollars. It is a balancing act, as when the local share of SFA funding increases, the state share goes down.

» Ensuring Funding Directly Benefits Students

In D38, we are committed to ensuring more than 80% of general fund expenses directly impact schools & direct student services, and learning & tech support. Some district expenses are funded not with the general fund, but instead with a combination of user fees, state subsidies, and federal programs.



» Balancing Funding and Priorities

While more money is coming into education, in general, many funds come with specific requirements for how they must be spent. School districts, like ours, have limited local control with part of our funding. This restricts us on using the funds for priorities such as increasing teacher compensation, curriculum, and extracurricular activities.

Over the last 17 years, the trend of mandated spending, that includes areas like special education and gifted education, has steadily increased, while the portion of funds for local control has decreased from 87% to 78%.

With inflation and changes in student count, the restrictions further impact how far education dollars can go in our schools.



D38 hosts a Financial Transparency Committee, a subgroup of our Parent & Community Advisory Committee. The committee is led by D38 staff who have been recognized by the Colorado Association of School Business Officials for their excellence in helping to elevate school finance statewide. Learn more about financial transparency on our website.

DISTRICT AT A GLANCE



6,324
students



629
students with special needs

664
students identified as gifted

98% graduation rate
75% attend college

450
registered parent & community volunteers



88,694
breakfasts served

329,544
lunches served



809
total staff



404
teachers

27
professional/tech

344 support staff
34 administrators

51%
teachers with advanced degrees

38
languages spoken



23
high school sports



741
high school students who took at least one AP exam



84%
of AP exams had a score of 3 or better, earning college credit for most schools

401,424
miles traveled by our buses



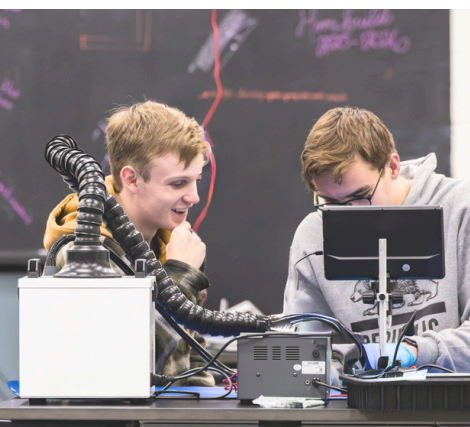
Statistics are from 2024-25 school year.

» Building Our Future Workforce

D38's Career & Innovation Center (CIC) opened in August 2025 and serves as a space where students can learn, create, and develop skills to prepare for some of today's most in-demand careers. Students from our two high schools can take classes in Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering, and the Skilled Trades, with courses in Healthcare and Computer Science coming in the future.

"The community, staff, and students have been grateful for the opportunities, and there is bubbling excitement for what is to come," said Amy Sienkowski, Director of Innovative Programs. "The resounding comment I hear from the community and staff is, 'I wish I would have had this when I was in school.'"

The center is located in a designated Enterprise Zone, which means that individuals and businesses can make contributions to the CIC and receive a tax credit from the State of Colorado and claim the donation on their federal taxes. "It's a great benefit to those who donate, while also a great benefit to our students preparing for the workforce," said Sienkowski.



LEARN MORE ABOUT
SUPPORTING THE CIC

DIRECTORY OF CAMPUSES

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Bear Creek Elementary

1330 Creekside Drive
Monument, CO 80132
Phone: (719) 481-4770

Lewis-Palmer Elementary

1315 Lake Woodmoor Drive
Monument, CO 80132
Phone: (719) 488-4750

Palmer Lake Elementary

115 Upper Glenway
Palmer Lake, CO 80133
Phone: (719) 488-4760

Prairie Winds Elementary

790 King's Deer Pt. E.
Monument, CO 80132
Phone: (719) 559-0800

Ray E. Kilmer Elementary

4285 Walker Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80908
Phone: (719) 488-4740

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Lewis-Palmer Middle School

1776 Woodmoor Drive
Monument, CO 80132
Phone: (719) 488-4776

Lewis-Palmer High School

1300 Higby Road
Monument, CO 80132
Phone: (719) 488-4720

Palmer Ridge High School

19255 Monument Hill Road
Monument, CO 80132
Phone: (719) 867-8600

HOME SCHOOL PROGRAM

Home School Enrichment Academy

At Grace Best Education Center (K-12)
66 N. Jefferson Street
Monument, CO 80132
Phone: (719) 488-4731

New facility coming soon!

CAREER & INNOVATION CENTER

1200 Synthes Ave
Monument, CO 80132
Phone: (719) 488-4730

PRESCHOOLS

Bear Creek Elementary
Lewis-Palmer Elementary
Palmer Lake Elementary
Ray E. Kilmer Elementary

CHARTER SCHOOL

Monument Academy West

1150 Village Ridge Pt.
Monument, CO 80132
Phone: (719) 481-1950

Monument Academy East

4303 Pinehurst Circle
Colorado Springs, CO 80908
Phone: (719) 431-8001



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@LewisPalmer38



@lpsd38



@LPSP38Media

And join our community email list for more news!



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FOUNDATION GRANT LAUNCHES MISSION MARS



D38 has many talented teachers who create unique and engaging learning for students. One of those educators, and D38 alumna, is Amy Robinson, science teacher at Lewis-Palmer Middle School.

"I believe it's imperative that we meet students where they are and challenge them to think creatively in ways that expand their curiosity and critical thinking skills," Robinson said.

One of her projects is "Mission Mars," a learning experience inspired by real NASA programming and space exploration. During the project, students work through real-world challenges that mirror what scientists, engineers, and astronauts face. They apply science, math, engineering, and technology knowledge, while also strengthening critical thinking and leadership skills.

"The grant from the Foundation allowed me to purchase the tools to take my students' learning from theory to practice, and transform their projects into an immersive experience," said Robinson. Projects like Robinson's "Mission Mars" are made possible thanks to grants from the D38 Education Foundation, an independent nonprofit organization aimed at supporting our students and teachers.



DONATE TO THE D38
FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT
PROJECTS LIKE THIS!