

School District 51
**STUDENT
AND PARENT
HANDBOOK**

2026-2027

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Student and Parent Handbook and Calendar

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Nondiscrimination Policy

– OFFICIAL NOTICE –

In compliance with Titles VI & VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, and Colorado law, Mesa County Valley School District 51 does not unlawfully discriminate against otherwise qualified students, employees, applicants for employment, or members of the public on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, religion, ancestry, or need for special education services. Discrimination against employees and applicants for employment based on age, genetic information, and conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth is also prohibited in accordance with state and/or federal law.

Complaint procedures have been established for students, parents, employees, and members of the public. The following person has been designated as the compliance officer for the district:

The following person has been designated as the Title IX Coordinator for the District

Lindsay Martin
2115 Grand Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501
(970) 254-5139 x 11169
Lindsay.Martin@d51schools.org

Policies, Procedures and Forms

The Board of Education Policy AC, Nondiscrimination, Regulation AC-R(1), Nondiscrimination (Compliance and Complaint Procedures), Regulation AC-R(2), Sexual Harassment Complaint, Investigation and Hearing Procedures and Exhibit, AC-E(2), Sexual Harassment Complaint, Investigation and Hearing Form can be found at www.d51schools.org.

Outside agencies

Complaints regarding violations of Title VI, (race, national origin), Title IX (sex, gender), Section 504/ADA (handicap or disability), may be filed directly with:

The Office for Civil Rights
Department of Education, Region VIII
Federal Office Building
1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 310
Denver, CO 80204
Telephone: (303) 844-5695

Complaints regarding violations of Title VII (employment and the ADEA (prohibiting age discrimination in employment) may be filed directly with:

Federal Office of Equal Employment
Opportunity Commission
303 E 17th Ave., Suite 510
Denver, CO 80202

OR

Colorado Civil Rights Commission
303 E. 17th Ave., Suite 1050
Denver, CO 80202

Mesa County Valley School District 51 Entrance Requirements and Information

Acknowledgement of Student and Parent Handbook

Each School District 51 parent and student must review the information in the 2026-2027 Student & Parent Handbook, including the Attendance, Conduct and Discipline Code, Directory Opt-Out procedure and referenced Board Policies with your child, and sign and return the acknowledgment form at the back of this book to your child's school.

Registering for School

When enrolling your child in Mesa County Valley School District 51 for the first time, please provide your child's certified birth certificate and immunization records. If your child is transferring from a school outside of District 51, a copy of their most recent report card is also requested, if available. For complete enrollment and registration information, please contact your neighborhood school or the District's Instructional Office, located at 930 Ute Avenue, Second Floor, by calling 970-254-5311 or 970-254-5362, or visit www.d51schools.org.

Immunization requirements

Colorado law requires all students to be immunized against certain diseases. Students must meet the immunization requirements in order to attend school. Colorado state law provides for exemption to immunization requirements based on a medical exemption, religious exemption, or personal exemption. The link to the exemption process and forms can be found on the Nursing Services page on the District website www.d51schools.org/departments111/nursing-services.

An official immunization letter issued by the Colorado Department of Health and Environment can be found on pages 12-15 of the 2026-2027 parent-student handbook.

Official Notice: Students with Food Allergies

School District 51 recognizes that many students are being diagnosed with potentially life-threatening food allergies. To address this issue and meet state law requirements concerning the management of food allergies and anaphylaxis among students, the Board of Education sets forth policy JLCDA *Students with Food Allergies*. The district encourages parents to keep a supply of the prescribed medication used to treat the food allergy/anaphylaxis at school, unless the student has an approved treatment plan that authorizes the student to carry the medication with him/her and can self-administer the medication. Any food allergy/anaphylaxis health care plan must be developed in conjunction with the school's Registered Nurse.

Please contact your school or 970-254-5417 for the number of the Registered Nurse to start the process of developing the plan. An Allergy and Asthma Action Plan form complete with Health Care Provider and parent/guardian signature will be required. For additional information, please visit the district website at www.d51schools.org/departments111/nursing-services.

School Attendance Areas and School of Choice

The District has designated an attendance area for each of its schools. Students residing within the boundaries of a school's designated attendance area have priority in registering to attend that school.

- The Board of Education recognizes and has determined that students should be given the option to attend a school or participate in a program located in an area other than that of their assigned school. Students may apply to attend a school or participate in an academic program outside the attendance area in which they reside (a "school of choice"). Such applications are granted if space is available in the requested school or program on a "first-come, first-served" basis.
- Students currently enrolled in "schools of choice" may continue in such schools as long as there is space available or until they complete the grade levels offered at the school.
- Enrollment in "schools of choice" is governed by Board of Education Policy JCA/JFBB and Regulation JCA/JFBB-R. Parents interested in enrolling their child in a "school of choice" next year are encouraged to review this policy and regulation.
- School attendance area boundaries are **subject to change**. Continuing students should plan on being served by the same elementary, middle and high school as last year. If the attendance boundaries for your school are changed, you will be notified.
- Parents of students who wish to change school enrollment or who wish to enroll in an academic program, for which they are otherwise qualified, at another school after the "school of choice" application deadline should submit the appropriate form requesting a transfer. The request shall be reviewed and acted upon in accordance with the regulations accompanying this policy. Under this option, once a student has registered in a school, no transfer to another building shall be allowed without permission from the building principals of the sending and receiving schools unless there is a change of the student's residence. Transfers are only granted at the end of semesters.
- Students who are new to School District 51 or who have moved within the District during the summer may locate their attendance area school by calling the Instructional office at 970-254-5311 or 970-254-5362 or by accessing the School Finder on the District's website at www.d51schools.org, under Enrollment and Registration.

Transportation

The District contracts with Student Transportation of America to provide transportation of eligible students to and from schools within their attendance area. Transportation to the school in your attendance area is provided according to the guidelines set forth in Board of Education Policy EEA - Student Transportation Services.

- Elementary school students who live more than two miles from school, and middle and high school students who live more than three miles from school are eligible to ride the bus to and from school.
- The District does not provide transportation to students attending programs or “schools of choice” outside their attendance area. However, parents may seek to contract privately with Student Transportation of America for transportation of students who are otherwise ineligible for District transportation, such as living within the walking boundaries. Such fee-based transportation may be offered at Student Transportation of America’s discretion if seating space is available and if the requested transportation can be incorporated into an existing Student Transportation of America bus route. A Pay Rider form can be found on the District’s website at www.d51schools.org on the transportation page. Students may not ride a bus other than their Student Transportation of America assigned bus.
- Information on specific bus numbers, bus stops, and stop times for individual students is available at your child’s school or by calling Student Transportation of America at 970-697-1050.
- School bus routes are designed based on a number of considerations, the most important of which is student safety.
- If you have concerns about transportation, first call Student Transportation of America, 970-697-1050. If you need further assistance, then call the District’s Transportation Department at 970-254-5102.

Early Childhood Education

District 51 offers a variety of high-quality early childhood education opportunities for preschool-aged children, including participation in Colorado's Universal Preschool (UPK) Program and specialized preschool services for children who qualify through an evaluation process. Early learning experiences help build a strong foundation for future academic success while supporting children's social, emotional, language, and developmental growth.

For information about preschool enrollment, Universal Preschool (UPK), or Early Childhood Special Education services, please visit the District 51 website at www.d51schools.org/departments111/early-childhood-education or contact the Early Childhood Education Department at (970) 254-5429.

Kindergarten and Elementary School

- To enroll in kindergarten, a child must be five (5) years of age on or before August 31 of the year of enrollment. Younger students may be accepted if transferring from another public school kindergarten program and if the principal or designee determines that placement of the student in kindergarten is appropriate.
- To enroll in first grade, a child must be six (6) years old on or before August 31 of the year of enrollment. Younger students may be accepted if transferring from a first grade in another public school and if the principal or designee determines that placement of the student in first grade is appropriate.
 - Children begin their school experience in a friendly atmosphere. School District 51 schools reflect a concern for each child, and continually develop and evaluate programs in an effort to provide the finest educational opportunities. The goals established by the Board of Education, the revised Colorado Academic Standards, and program goals for each subject area provide a basis for curriculum in schools.
 - The instructional program for kindergarten through grade 5 emphasizes the basic subjects of reading, writing, and mathematics, as well as spelling, science, and social studies. Special programs in art, music and physical education enrich the basic curriculum. In addition, the District offers ELL (English Language Learners), gifted/talented, Title I, special education, and related services.
 - For more information on available options, please contact the District’s Instructional Office at 970-254-5311.
 - Mesa County Valley School District 51 may use outside agencies and institutions to complete state-mandated health screenings. Such agencies and institutions will be required to comply with applicable state and federal privacy laws governing access to and disclosure of confidential student information and records.

Middle School/High School

School District 51 middle and high school programs are designed to help students develop and expand their abilities, interests and skills. All programs are based on the school District’s goals, aims, content standards, and program and course goals, and provide students with a wide variety of education experiences.

Middle schools, grades 6-8, provide a continuation of the general education program which began in elementary school. Middle and high school students are required to take English-Language Arts, social studies, mathematics, and science every year. The middle school program also includes courses in art, technology education, physical education and music.

For more information about D51 Middle or High Schools, and/or programs, contact the District’s Instructional Office at 970-254-5311 or 970-254-5362.

Student Services and Programs

Special Education

In accordance with state and federal laws, the District provides a wide range of services for students ages 3 through 21, who qualify for special education and/or related services because of a disability. Such students receive services based on individualized education programs specifically formulated to meet their needs. Individualized education plans (IEPs) take into consideration relevant information and data concerning the student from a variety of sources, including parents, educators, and other professionals.

If you believe your child may have an emotional, physical, intellectual, or mental disability, please contact her/his teacher or a school administrator as soon as possible.

Gifted/Talented

Elementary and middle school students identified for higher levels of academic challenge are offered additional learning opportunities at their regular school site through the Gifted/Talented Program. This program helps students expand their creative and critical thinking skills and sharpen independent study skills, and provides opportunities for students to probe more deeply into content areas of interest. Research shows children often display gifted behavior around topics that interest them. Through exploration of enrichment programs, additional content areas in which a student may be gifted or talented may be discovered. Please direct questions about Gifted/Talented programs to your child's teacher.

Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Education (CLDE)

- *Vision of the Department of CLDE:* Engage, equip, and empower multilingual learners by promoting value, equity, language acquisition, and academic achievement.
- *Mission of the Department of CLDE:* To provide multilingual learners with access to rigorous academic standards and quality instruction in order to become fluent in English, while incorporating students' language and culture in preparation for success in a global society.
- *Goals of the Department of CLDE:* By building collaborative relationships and targeted professional learning between District 51 stakeholders, the goal is to increase student achievement of academic standards through the strategic use of the Colorado English Language Proficiency Standards (CELP). Through careful design of the District 51 Learning Model with ongoing assessment and reporting of language acquisition, the goal is to create a timely progression of English language acquisition for successful transition into all mainstream content classrooms.

Migrant

Instructional and support services are available to help eligible students and youth whose education has been interrupted by frequent moves from one school district to another due to the highly mobile nature of agricultural work. These services are designed to address educational gaps and disruptions caused by high mobility.

Parents and community members who have, or know of, a child or youth who may qualify for these services are encouraged to contact the District's Agriculture Education Program at 970-254-5116 for more information.

Academic Options

- District 51 offers a wide variety of learning opportunities designed to support students' strengths, interests, and future goals. Families can explore options such as one of our elementary STEAM schools, our STEM high school, our International Baccalaureate (IB) schools, our Dual Language schools, our hybrid online/in-person K–12 school, our alternative high school, our New Online School, our Early College Program, or our individualized graduation pathways through KPP at all high schools.
- Students also have access to Concurrent Enrollment, Advanced Placement (AP), and Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses at every high school. In addition, District 51 offers reading intervention support at every elementary school, Gifted and Talented (GT) programming at every school K–12, STEM opportunities at every school, and many other programs designed to support your child's interests, strengths, and educational experiences.
- Families are encouraged to visit with their school administrator or counselor to learn more about available options and opportunities for your child. You may also contact the District's Instructional Office at 970-254-5311 or 970-254-5362.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

The following information is provided for students and parents to review and discuss together regarding students' rights and responsibilities. Students should understand they will face disciplinary action for violating school rules and regulations. The discipline imposed will vary depending on a number of factors, including the age of the student and the seriousness of the offense. School District 51 has established disciplinary procedures to assure that applicable student rights, including the right to due process, are protected. Further information on all of the topics listed below may be found in the policies and regulations available on the District's website.

Appearance

The image of the school and the individual pride of the students are evident in the manner in which students present themselves to the public. Individual schools have guidelines dealing with standards of decency, safety and cleanliness and the District has a student dress code which can be referenced online under policy JICA. When a student's dress or grooming disrupts the learning process, the designated official has a responsibility to take action. Contact your school's principal for more information regarding school dress code policies.

Attendance

According to state law, it is the obligation of every parent/guardian to ensure that every child under their care and supervision attends school if the student has attained the age of 6 years on or before August 1 of each year and is under the age of 17. As outlined in District Policies JEA and JH (see policy links below), every student is expected to attend all scheduled classes and school activities designated for student attendance on the district calendar. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to communicate to their child's school reasons for all absences. An absence is considered excused only if it meets the qualifying criteria outlined in District Policy JH.

[Policy JEA](#) - Compulsory Attendance Ages

[Policy JH](#) - Student Absences and Excuses

Lockers and Desks

It is important that students and parents understand that while students are allowed to use their assigned desks and lockers for temporary storage of personal belongings, all desks and lockers shall at all times remain the property of the District, and the District reserves the right to inspect and search them, along with any contents found inside at any time, for any cause whatsoever, and without notice to the student.

Student Discipline and Conduct

The Board of Education believes that effective student discipline is a prerequisite for sound educational practice and productive learning. All policies and procedures for handling minor and major discipline problems for all students of the District shall be designed to achieve this goal. Disorderly students also shall be dealt with in a manner which allows other students to learn in an atmosphere which is safe, conducive to the learning process, and free from unnecessary disruptions. Please refer to the Attendance, Conduct and Discipline Code in this handbook for specific discipline policies and guidelines.

Student Use of Information Technology Resources (Internet, E-mail, and Computer Systems/Networks)

Technological advances have fundamentally altered the way in which information is retrieved, conveyed, and transmitted in our society. Such changes require educators to adapt and integrate appropriate new technology into the learning process to facilitate, support and enhance delivery of curriculum, and as tools and resources to educate and inform. The District is committed to make available for student use computers, internet access, email, and other information technology resources in schools for the following purposes:

- To provide access to relevant and appropriate academic information and resources available on the internet and through electronic communication and data storage systems;
- To allow students to participate in online or electronic curriculum or distance learning activities as needed or appropriate;
- To consult and communicate with other students and individuals for educational purposes;
- To conduct academic or educational research;
- To engage in activities requiring students to think critically, analyze information, write clearly, and use problem-solving skills;
- To practice and develop computer and research skills necessary for continued education or entry into the workforce upon graduation; and
- To foster intellectual curiosity and shape positive student attitude toward lifelong learning.

Responsible Use Agreement (RUA)

To use the District's technology, including Internet access, e-mail, computers, and networks, all students, unless they are 18 years of age or older, must have an RUA signed by a parent or guardian. The student must also sign the RUA if he/she is in grades 4 – 12. Parental RUA approval/denial will be included as part of the Online process. The first time each year a student logs into StudentVUE they will be required to download a copy of the Student and Parent Handbook which references Regulation JS-R and RUA form JS-E. By acknowledging review of the Student and Parent Handbook, the parent/guardian agrees to the terms and conditions of the RUA. RUA forms will be included in paper registration packets. All RUA acknowledgments will be maintained in the Student

Information System. The Principal may deny access to the District's technology if a completed RUA has not been submitted. For more information about technology use by students, please contact the school's administration.

Student Use Restrictions

District Policy prohibits students from using District computers or networks to access inappropriate material. However, it is still possible that students may find or receive material that parents or District staff consider objectionable. Although student use of the school computers and networks is supervised by staff, the District cannot guarantee the appropriateness of information obtained by or through use of District technology, nor does the District endorse or approve the content of all information available on the Internet or other electronic sources. The District encourages parents to discuss with their students their family values and expectations about how these values should guide their student's activities while they are on the Internet. In addition, it is important that parents discuss with students relevant safety issues pertaining to the Internet, e-mail, and electronic communications. A helpful brochure titled, "Child Safety on the Information Highway," can be located at the following website address:

<https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/child-safety-information-highway>. The District's Code of Student Conduct applies to the use of District computers and networks and to a student's online activities and electronic communications at school.

Surveys

No student shall be required to submit to any survey that concerns one or more protected areas under federal law. Parents or eligible students may opt-out of voluntary surveys by submitting a written request.

Parent-Teacher Communications

Parents are encouraged to discuss their child's progress with his/her teacher. If parents have a concern or issue, they should follow these guidelines:

- Call the teacher first to discuss the child's circumstances. A simple phone call gives the teacher a "heads-up" on issues related to the child and may clarify questions or misunderstandings.
- Set up an appointment with the teacher. **Parents and all visitors must check in at the office when coming on school grounds before the meeting.**
- At any time, if either the parent or the teacher feels that a meeting is unproductive, it can be concluded and rescheduled for a future time with other parties, including counselors and administrators.

For the benefit of the student and his or her education, it is essential that parents make every attempt to work through issues. No one knows a child better than the parents, and like them, teachers and principals also have the best interest of the child in mind. Together, parents and schools can reach the most appropriate solutions to issues involving a child's education.

General Information

Asbestos Notification to Staff and Parents of Students

- The District maintains an asbestos management plan as required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act. Regulatory oversight of the District's asbestos management plan is performed by the Air Pollution Control Division of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. The purpose of this required notice is to inform staff members and parents of all students of the existence and locations of the District's asbestos management plan.
- The District's asbestos management plan identifies the location and condition of known and suspected asbestos materials located in all buildings throughout the District. The management plan also documents the continuing inspection and maintenance of these asbestos containing materials. The management plan is available for review in the office area of all schools or can be viewed at the Central Administration Maintenance Office located at 2115 Grand Avenue, Grand Junction, CO. Please contact our Maintenance Department at 970-254-5150 for more information regarding the District's asbestos management plan.
- School campuses and facilities that are known, or assumed, to contain asbestos building materials are: Administrative Services Compound, Appleton Elementary, Broadway Elementary, Central High, Chatfield Elementary, Clifton Elementary, Emerson Building, Fruita Middle, Fruita Monument High, Fruitvale Elementary, Gateway, Hawthorne Building, Lincoln Orchard Mesa Elementary, Grand River Academy, Mt. Garfield Middle, New Emerson Elementary, Nisley Early Childhood Center, Orchard Avenue Elementary, Orchard Mesa Pool Building, Pomona Elementary, Scenic Elementary, Shelledy Elementary, Taylor Elementary, Tope Elementary, West Middle, and Wingate Elementary.
- School campuses and facilities that are asbestos free are: Bookcliff Middle, Career Center, Chipeta Elementary, Dos Rios Elementary, Dual Immersion Academy, Grand Junction High, Grand Mesa Middle, Independence Academy, Juniper Ridge, Mesa Valley Community, Mesa View Elementary, Monument Ridge Elementary, Orchard Mesa Middle, Palisade High, Pear Park Elementary, R-5/Summit, Redlands Middle, Rim Rock Elementary, Rocky Mountain Elementary, Thunder Mountain Elementary.

Emergency Response Plan and Communication

The District has adopted an Emergency Response Plan that is available for review and inspection by parents and members of the general public upon request. The purpose of this plan is to establish the emergency response procedures to be followed in the event of natural and man-made disasters, and emergencies, and to assign responsibilities to District staff in the event of such emergencies. These procedures are created in collaboration with local law enforcement and fire agencies to emphasize the importance of unified command during an incident.

- Pursuant to the Emergency Response Plan, if an emergency, disaster, or crisis occurs at a school or other District facility (day or night), the administrative staff of such facility or their designee is authorized to respond immediately and to direct students and staff to evacuate, if deemed necessary. Upon arrival of a civil authority and/or central District administrator, such civil authority or central District administrator will ensure unified command is established for all emergency operations or responses at such a facility.
- **The District's Emergency Response Plan is intended to achieve the following purposes:**
 - Preventing crises when possible through pro-active planning;
 - Enhancing the safety and well-being of students, staff and the general public;
 - Protecting individuals and property;
 - Maintaining control of crisis situations

Emergency Communications

During an emergency or other significant situation occurring at or near a school, Mesa County Valley School District 51 will use ParentSquare, the district's official communication platform, to provide timely updates to families and staff.

Depending on the situation, emergency notifications may be sent through one or more of the following methods:

- Phone calls to registered phone numbers
- Text messages to registered mobile phone numbers
- Emails to registered email addresses
- ParentSquare app notifications for users with the app installed
- Updates on the District website at www.d51schools.org
- Posts on the District's official social media channels, including Facebook and X

To ensure you receive emergency notifications, families should keep their contact information current through ParentVUE or by contacting their child's school. ParentSquare automatically uses the contact information on file in the District's student information system. Families are encouraged to activate their ParentSquare account and download the ParentSquare mobile app for the fastest access to district, school, and classroom communications.

Sex Offender Information

As required by Colorado law, the District provides the following information regarding how parents may access information concerning registered sex offenders:

1. Parents may request a sex offender registry list from their local law enforcement agency.
 - ◆ Registry information can be released to any person residing within the law enforcement agency's jurisdiction.
 - ◆ Persons requesting information will need to show proper identification or other proof of residence.
 - ◆ When necessary for public protection and demonstration of a "need to know," law enforcement agencies may provide information concerning sex offenders who reside within other law enforcement jurisdictions. In determining whether there is a "need to know," the law enforcement agency will, at a minimum, consider the nature and extent of the person's presence or the presence of the person's immediate family in a specific jurisdiction.
2. Parents may also visit the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) website (<http://sor.state.co.us>) for information concerning certain *high-risk* registered sex offenders residing in the state.

Notice Regarding Use of Video Security Cameras

- To help maintain a safe, secure, and orderly learning environment, video cameras may be used on District property. Video surveillance supports the health, welfare, and safety of students and staff, as well as the enforcement of school rules and district policies. Refer to Board Policy JRCB.
- Video recordings may be retained in accordance with established student record procedures governing the access, review, and release of student records.
- Requests to view video recordings are limited to school administrators, authorized staff, a parent/guardian or eligible student (18 years of age or older) with a legitimate educational interest, law enforcement agencies, or others as determined appropriate by the building administrator. For additional information regarding video surveillance procedures, refer to Board Policy JRCB-R.

Student Records

- The District collects and maintains educational information and data regarding students as necessary to provide them with the best possible instructional service.
- Examples of basic educational records kept by the District include, but are not limited to, copies of the student's birth certificate, academic work completed, attendance information, standardized test results, grades received, and health/immunization records.

Supplementary materials that may be included as part of a student's educational records include, but are not limited to, copies of disciplinary information, guidance information, social work data, medical and psychological reports and evaluations, special education records, law enforcement records, and court orders.

- Basic information is considered permanent and is maintained for an indefinite period.
- Requests for access to education records of active students should be directed to the administration of the school where the student currently attends or is enrolled.
- Except for high school transcripts, requests for access to education records of inactive (former) students should be directed to the District's Pupil Records office, located at 2115 Grand Avenue, Grand Junction, CO, 81501, such office can be reached by telephone at 254-5430.
- Requests for copies of high school transcripts should be directed to the high school from which the student graduated.

Notification to Parents and Students of Rights Concerning Student School Records

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Colorado law afford parents/guardians and eligible students (students over 18 years of age) certain rights with respect to education records, as follows:

1. **The right to inspect and review the student's education records.** A parent/guardian or eligible student making such a request must submit to the school official having custody of the record(s) a written request that identifies the record(s) he/she desires to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent/guardian or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. **The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent/guardian or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading or otherwise violates the privacy rights of the student.** A parent/guardian or eligible student may ask the District to amend a record by writing to the custodian of the records, clearly identifying the part of the record he/she wants changed, and specifying why it is inaccurate, misleading or in violation of the privacy rights of the student. If the District decides not to amend the record as requested, the District will notify the parent/guardian or eligible student of the decision and advise of his/her right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment and provide the procedures for such hearing.
3. **The right to consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA and state law authorize disclosure without consent.** Whenever the District is required by law or policy to seek written consent prior to disclosing personally identifiable information regarding a student, the notice provided to the parent/guardian or eligible student shall contain the records to be released; reasons for such release; identity of any requester and the intended use of the information; method or manner by which the records will be released; and the right to review or receive a copy of the records to be released. Disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in education records can be made without consent as follows:
 - a. To a school official who has legitimate educational interest in the education record or the personally identifiable information contained therein. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, teacher, or support staff member; a person serving on the Board of Education; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform specialized tasks (such as an attorney, auditor, consultant, or health care provider); or a parent/guardian or student serving on an official committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has legitimate educational interest if disclosure to the official is: (1) necessary for that official to perform appropriate tasks that are specified in his or her position description or by a contract agreement; (2) used within the context of official District business and not for purposes extraneous to the officials areas of responsibility; (3) relevant to the accomplishment of some task or to a determination about the student; and (4) consistent with the purposes for which the data are maintained.
 - b. To officials of another school, school system or postsecondary institution that has requested the records and in which the student seeks or intends to enroll. In this case, disciplinary information may be included. The District will provide a copy of the record to the eligible student or students' parent/guardian if so requested.
 - c. In connection with a student's application for or receipt of financial aid or Medicaid enrollment verification.
 - d. To governmental agencies and officials as required by law.
 - e. To educational testing and research organizations for the purpose of administering student aid programs or improving instruction or predictive tests as long as confidentiality is maintained and such organizations are required to destroy records after they no longer are needed.
 - f. To accrediting institutions to carry out their accrediting functions.
 - g. In emergency situations to appropriate persons if the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or others.
 - h. To anyone, if required by a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena after reasonable efforts to notify the parent/guardian or eligible student of such order or subpoena.
 - i. To a court presiding over a legal action initiated by the District where the education records are relevant, or initiated by a parent/guardian or eligible student where the records are relevant for the District's defense.
 - j. The District is permitted by law to disclose directory information without written consent of the parent or eligible student. Directory information means information contained in a student's education record that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. The parent or eligible student has the right to refuse to permit

the designation of any or all of the categories of directory information by completing form JRA/JRC-E(2). Directory information which may be released includes but is not limited to the student's name, photograph, date of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, grade level, enrollment status, degrees, honors and awards received, the most recent and previous education agency or institution attended by the student, and other similar information. However, unless otherwise provided by law, addresses and telephone numbers of students shall not be disclosed as directory information except to a state or federal law enforcement agency where such student is under investigation by such agency and the agency shows that such information is necessary for the investigation.

4. **The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning any alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA.** The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue
S.W, Washington, DC 20202-4605



Dear families of students attending Colorado kindergarten through 12th grade schools for the 2026-27 school year:

This letter includes important information and other resources about Colorado's [immunization requirements to attend school](#). There's nothing more important than making sure your child stays healthy and learning all year long. Routine vaccination can prevent the spread of diseases like measles, mumps, varicella (chickenpox), whooping cough, and others, so kids can just be kids. The vast majority of Colorado families choose to protect their children through vaccination.

Colorado law requires students attending school to be vaccinated against many diseases, unless a certificate of exemption is filed. For more information, visit cdphe.colorado.gov/immunization-policy-and-board-health-rules. Before your student's first day of school, you are responsible for providing at least one of the following to each school your student attends:

1. An up-to-date immunization record.
2. An in-process plan ([example](#)).
3. A Certificate of Medical or Nonmedical Exemption for any missing doses of school-required vaccine(s).

Vaccines required to attend school (K-12)	Number of valid doses* to start kindergarten and attend school (K-12)
Hepatitis B (HepB)	3 doses
Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (DTaP)	5 doses
Polio (IPV)	4 doses
Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)	2 doses
Varicella (chickenpox)	2 doses
In addition, at seventh grade entry, your child is required to have:	
Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis)	1 dose

*If your child is or was behind on routine vaccines, the number of doses may vary. [Colorado's school \(K-12\) immunization table](#) can help you and your child's health care provider determine if your child has the required number of doses.

Colorado requires vaccines to be given following the vaccine schedules outlined in Colorado Board of Health rule [6 CCR 1009-2](#) for the number and spacing of doses of the required vaccines. View the recommended vaccine schedule for [children birth through 6 years](#) and [children/adolescents 7-18 years of age](#). **Get seventh-grade ready:** Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, Colorado law requires adolescents to receive one dose of Tdap **before their first day of** seventh grade. Adolescents who had a Tdap at sixth-grade entry for the 2025-2026 school year do not need another dose for seventh grade. Questions? Refer to the [Tdap letter](#), linked on our [school webpage](#).

There are other vaccines that are not required for K-12 school but recommended, including: COVID-19, hepatitis A (HepA), human papillomavirus (HPV), influenza (flu), and meningococcal disease (MenACWY and MenB).

Vaccination records

Share your student's updated Certificate of Immunization with their school every time they receive a vaccine. Need to find your student's vaccine record? Visit the [finding a student's immunization records for school](#) webpage or [COVaxRecords.org](#) for more information.

Exclusion from school

If there is an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease at your student's school, and your student has not received the vaccine for that disease, they may be excluded from school for many days. That could mean lost learning time for them and lost work and wages for you. For example, if your student is not up to date with their MMR vaccines, they may need to stay home from school for at least 21 days after someone at the school gets sick with measles.

Exemptions from one or more school-required vaccines

Medical Exemption. If your health care provider determines that your student cannot get vaccines for medical reasons, you must submit a Certificate of Medical Exemption to your school.

Nonmedical Exemption. If you choose not to have your student vaccinated for nonmedical reasons, you must submit a Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption to your school. There are two ways to obtain a nonmedical exemption:

1. Submit the Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption signed by an advanced practice nurse (APN), pharmacist, physician (MD or DO), physician assistant (PA), or registered nurse (RN), licensed in Colorado.
2. Submit the Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption you will be able to access after completing Colorado's Online Immunization Education Module.

Nonmedical exemptions must be submitted on an annual basis. Find more information about exemptions at [cdphe.colorado.gov/exemptions-to-school-required-vaccines](#).

Have questions?

Talk with a health care provider or your local public health agency to ask questions and find out which vaccines your student needs. Read about the benefits and importance of vaccines at [childvaccineco.org](#), [HealthyChildren.org](#), and [cdphe.colorado.gov/immunization-education](#).

Finding and paying for vaccinations

Find a vaccine provider at [cdphe.colorado.gov/get-vaccinated](#). Visit [COVax4Kids.org](#) to find free or low-cost vaccines. Dial [2-1-1](#) for information on Health First Colorado (Medicaid) and vaccine clinics in your area.

How is your school doing on vaccinations?

Annually, schools and child cares must report immunization and exemption numbers (but not student names or birthdates) to the state health department. Colorado law established the Vaccinated Children Standard of 95% for all school-required vaccines, described in [§25-4-911, CRS](#), and schools do not control their specific immunization and exemption rates.

Your child's school's immunization rates from the 2025-2026 school year.

(Find 2024-2025 school year and prior years' data at [COVaxRates.org](#)).

School Name	2025-2026 MMR Immunization Rate REQUIRED IN LETTER	2025-2026 MMR Exemption Rate REQUIRED IN LETTER
APPLETON ELEMENTARY	92.17%	7.14%
BOOKCLIFF MIDDLE SCHOOL	96.56%	0.4%

BROADWAY ELEMENTARY	92.66%	4.55%
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL	97.4%	1.7%
CHATFIELD ELEMENTARY	97.38%	2.09%
CHIPETA ELEMENTARY	94.86%	1.62%
DOS RIOS ELEMENTARY	94.31%	1.63%
DUAL IMMERSION ACADEMY	97.53%	1.41%
FRUITA MIDDLE SCHOOL	94.87%	2.7%
FRUITA MONUMENT HIGH SCHOOL	96.5%	2.4%
FRUITVALE ELEMENTARY	88.78%	1%
GATEWAY SCHOOL	80.0%	20.0%
GRAND JUNCTION HIGH SCHOOL	95.9%	1.4%
GRAND MESA MIDDLE SCHOOL	96.36%	3.2%
GRAND RIVER ACADEMY	90.6%	4.1%
INDEPENDENCE ACADEMY	93.2%	4.7%
JUNIPER RIDGE	83.8%	5.7%
LINCOLN ORCHARD MESA ELEMENTARY	92.02%	3.80%
LOMA ELEMENTARY	89.66%	1.97%
MESA VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL	73.8%	13.0%
MESA VIEW ELEMENTARY	90.80%	1.84%
MONUMENT RIDGE ELEMENTARY	90.76%	2.55%

MOUNT GARFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL	96.15%	2.2%
NEW EMERSON SCHOOL AT COLUMBUS	96.95%	2.29%
ORCHARD AVENUE ELEMENTARY	91.82%	3.32%
ORCHARD MESA MIDDLE SCHOOL	96.59%	1.8%
PALISADE HIGH SCHOOL	94.9%	1.9%
PEAR PARK ELEMENTARY	96.35%	2.34%
POMONA ELEMENTARY	94.34%	2.70%
R-5 HIGH SCHOOL	96.6%	3.4%
REDLANDS MIDDLE SCHOOL	95.05%	3.1%
RIM ROCK ELEMENTARY	87.76%	3.85%
ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY	96.0%	2.0%
SHELLEDY ELEMENTARY	93%	2.33%
TAYLOR ELEMENTARY	90.60%	5.74%
THUNDER MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY	86.34%	3.61%
TOPE ELEMENTARY	90.63%	1.74%
WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL	94.14%	1.5%
WINGATE ELEMENTARY	94.52%	5.48%

Food & Nutrition Services (*School Breakfast and Lunch Programs*)

General Information

We “*fuel successful learning*” by providing healthy scratch cooked meals and salad bars at each school, every day. District 51 participates in the Nourish Colorado School Meal Initiative providing scratch cooking, culinary training & resources for all Food Service staff. All District 51 menus receive annual nutrient analysis performed by our Registered Dietician and exceed the USDA nutrition guidelines. Students at all grade levels are required to receive a minimum of ½ cup of fruit and/or ½ cup of vegetables with meals. See www.realfood.gov for further information.

Healthy School Meals for All - Propositions MM and LL were passed by voters, which allows the Healthy School Meals for All program to raise and retain additional funding. Thanks to the support of Colorado voters, the Healthy School Meals for All program will continue to provide free meals for D51 students in Mesa County (excludes breakfast at Independence Academy, New Emerson, Juniper Ridge, Mesa Valley Community School & Grand River Academy).

It remains important for families to complete the Family Application for Benefits. Families who submit the application and meet the criteria may also qualify for additional benefits or discounted district fees, including:

- Discounted utility and internet
- Waived curricular fees
- Discounted AP test fees
- Discounted bus passes
- Summer EBT

Family Application for Benefits online process begins July 9th 2026. Parents without internet access can pick up the paper application at any school or the Nutrition Services Office at 2280 E. Main Street, Grand Junction. A new application must be completed each year. If your household has received a letter for the current school year stating your students have been approved for benefits under the Direct Certification process, there is no need to complete an application. If you have additional students in your household for whom you did not receive a Directly Certified letter for, please contact the Nutrition Services Department at NutritionServices@d51schools.org or by calling 970-254-5181.

All income details provided through this document are confidential and safeguarded by Colorado law. Only one application needs to be completed for all children within an eligible household. When filling out this form, immigration status, migrant status, citizenship, and refugee status are not required. If you have questions about completing this application, please contact the Nutrition Services Department at NutritionServices@d51schools.org or 970-254-5181

Students wishing to purchase a second meal, extra milk or other additional items will need to have funds available in their cafeteria account for the purchase. Middle schools and high schools offer an increased assortment of entrée choices including: hot entrée, deli sandwiches, pizzas, salad bars & hamburgers. Milk without a meal is not free. Students who bring a meal from home and would like to purchase milk will need to have funds available in their cafeteria account. Payments to cafeteria accounts can either be made at the cafeteria with a check or cash or online through [My Payments Plus](#).

Notification Regarding Special Dietary Guidelines for Students with Food Allergies

Please refer to the [district website](#) for the latest requirements for students with Special Dietary Needs. For daily menu and allergens go to the [Nutrition Services Menu Webpage](#).

Non-discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation) disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or t USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#) from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

(1) mail:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
(2) fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

MESA COUNTY VALLEY SD 51 CAFETERIA CHARGE STANDARD PROCEDURES

Purpose

The District is committed to ensuring that all students receive the nutrition they need to engage in active learning during the school day. In accordance with applicable guidance from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), this procedure is intended to serve the purposes of meeting student needs and maintaining the fiscal integrity of the District's school food service account.

Student Cafeteria Accounts

Student cafeteria accounts shall be established by the School Food Authority (SFA). Funds may be added to the account with either check or cash payments at the school or through the District's online payment system (www.mypaymentsplus.com). Parents may call the Nutrition Services Office at 970-254-5181 to make a payment over the phone. Students may also pay for purchases and/or add funds to accounts on the day of service with a check or cash.

All students can receive one free breakfast and one free lunch every school day at participating schools. Students will need funds on their account for ala carte or "extra" items, such as milk, additional entrées or if they request a second meal. Milk without a meal is not free.

Students with unused credit in their accounts at the point of disenrollment or graduation may request a refund of the credit.

NOTE: All adult meals, including employees of D51, are required to be pre-paid or paid in full at the time of purchase.

Notification of Low or Insufficient Funds

Notification of a negative balance on a student cafeteria account will be provided privately to the parent(s) via email, letters or automated phone call reminders.

Cafeteria debt that was incurred prior to implementation of Healthy School Meals for All (anything prior to the 2023-24 school year) will continue to be collected.

Collection of Meal Charge Debt

Delinquent Debt: As defined by the USDA, delinquent debt includes overdue balances with active, reasonable efforts being made to collect the outstanding amount due. Mesa County Valley SD 51 considers student meal accounts with a negative balance to be in delinquent status.

- **Uncollectable and Bad Debt:** Delinquent debts that have been determined to be uncollectible will be reclassified as "bad debt". Graduating senior accounts are classified as bad debt as of the last day of May following graduation. Mesa County Valley SD 51 also classifies student accounts as "bad debt" when collection efforts have been unsuccessful for twelve (12) months after a student has left the District. Repayment of "bad debt" is an unallowable expense for the NSFS; therefore, payment for this bad debt balance will come from other sources such as: The District's general fund, Special funding from state or local governments, or donations.

Donations

Regardless of their source, monies received through D51 Nutrition Services as donations to pay off negative meal balances will be deposited into a District account set up specifically for meal account donations. Donations will be distributed annually at the end of the fiscal year (June 30) and applied to all accounts identified as bad debt. Any excess donated funds not used on bad debt in the current year, will be carried over to the next fiscal year.

Refunds

Families may request a refund of the student(s) meal account(s) at any time by contacting the school cafeteria or the Nutrition Services Office at 970-254-5181.

MESA COUNTY VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT 51

2026-2027 Application Benefits – Information Letter to Households

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Mesa County Valley School District 51 continues Healthy School Meals for All in the 2026-2027 school year.

Just like in previous years, it's important for families to still provide their household income information when requested by their district. While meals will be provided for free to all students in participating schools, it's important for districts to continue gathering this information in order to receive full access to federal funding. These funds go directly to schools to help cover the cost of meals and support after-school activities and other nutritional programs for students. Plus, qualifying households may be eligible for Summer EBT benefits, receive discounted school fees, bus passes, utilities support, Rec Program discounts and more. Providing household income information ensures you and your school receive all available financial support.

This packet includes an application for benefits, and a set of detailed instructions. You can also find applications at all school locations, at the Nutrition Services office located at 2280 East Main St. Grand Junction or apply online at www.MySchoolApps.com. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. **WHO QUALIFIES FOR BENEFITS?**

- a. All children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), Temporary Assistance for Needy Family (TANF/Colorado Works – Basic Cash Assistance or State Diversion), are eligible for free meals.
- b. Foster children who are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals. Foster children may be added as a household member of the foster family if the foster family chooses to apply. Including foster children as household members may help other children qualify for benefits. If the foster family is not eligible, it does not prevent a foster child from receiving benefits.
- c. Children who qualify for their districts Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
- d. Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
- e. Children may receive benefits if their household's income is within the limits of the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for benefits if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART for School Year 2026 – 2027			
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$29,526	\$2,461	\$568
2	\$40,034	\$3,337	\$770
3	\$50,542	\$4,212	\$972
4	\$61,050	\$5,088	\$1,175
5	\$71,558	\$5,964	\$1,377
6	\$82,066	\$6,839	\$1,579
7	\$92,574	\$7,715	\$1,781
8	\$103,082	\$8,591	\$1,983
Each additional person:	\$10,508	\$876	\$203

2. **HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY?**

Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, with another family or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet any of these descriptions and have not already been notified that your children will receive free meals, please call HOMELESS (REACH) at 970-254-5528 or MIGRANT at 970-254-5495.

3. **DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD?**

No. Use one Family Application for Benefits for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to: Connie Barteck, Nutrition Services, Mesa County Valley School District 51, 2280 E. Main St. Grand Junction, CO 81501. 970-254-5181

4. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR MEAL BENEFITS?

No, but please read the letter you received carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household are missing from your eligibility notification, contact Connie Barteck at Nutrition Services 970-254-5181 or Connie.Barteck@d51schools.org immediately.

5. CAN I APPLY ONLINE?

Yes! You are encouraged to complete an online application instead of a paper application if you are able. The online application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. Visit www.MySchoolApps.com to begin or to learn more about the online application process. Contact Connie Barteck at Nutrition Services 970-254-5181 or Connie.Barteck@d51schools.org if you have any questions about the online application.

6. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE?

Yes. Your child's application is only valid for that school year and for the first 30 days of this school year. You must send in a new application unless D51 Nutrition Services notified you that your child is eligible for the new school year.

7. I RECEIVE WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN RECEIVE MEAL BENEFITS?

Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for benefits. Please send in a completed Family Application for Benefits or apply online at www.MySchoolApps.com

8. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED?

You may be selected to provide written proof of the household income you report on the Family Application for Benefits.

9. IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER?

Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for benefits if the household income drops below the income limit.

10. WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION?

You should talk to D51's Benefit Program Specialist. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Dan Sharp, Nutrition Services, 2280 E. Main St. Grand Junction, CO 81501. 970-254-5191.

11. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN?

Yes. You, your children or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for benefits. Immigration, migrant, citizenship or refugee status is not required to be provided during the application process and families should continue to apply for benefits. The application does require the last four numbers of a Social Security number or an indication that there is no Social Security number. Social Security number information is not reported to any organization outside of Mesa County Valley School District 51.

12. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME?

List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income. The last four digits of the Social Security Number of an adult household member (or an indication of "none") is required to process a complete income application.

13. WHAT IF SOME HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS HAVE NO INCOME TO REPORT?

Household members may not receive some types of income we ask you to report on the application or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so. The last four digits of the Social Security Number of an adult household member (or an indication of "none") is required to process a complete benefit application.

14. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY?

Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, or receive Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance payments, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.

15. WHAT IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY?

List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper, and attach it to your application. Contact Connie Barteck at Nutrition Services 970-254-5181 or Connie.Barteck@d51schools.org to receive a second application or apply online at www.MySchoolApps.com

16. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR?

To find out how to apply for other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office. Colorado PEAK is an online service to screen and apply for medical, food and cash assistance programs. It can be accessed at [Colorado Peak](http://ColoradoPeak.org).

If you have other questions or need help, contact Connie Barteck at Nutrition Services 970-254-5181 or Connie.Barteck@d51schools.org

Sincerely,

Connie Barteck
Eligibility Official
Mesa County Valley S.D. 51

Non-discrimination Statement:

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation) disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or t USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#) from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

(1) mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

(2) fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

School Directory

Elementary Schools

- **Appleton Elementary** – 2358 H Road, Grand Junction, CO 81505 • Principal: Corey Hafey • 970-254-6400
- **Broadway Elementary** – 2248 Broadway, Grand Junction, CO 81507 • Principal: Britni Westbrook • 970-254-6430
- **Chatfield Elementary** – 3188 D.5 Road, Grand Junction, CO 81504 • Principal: Sally Huddle • 970-254-4930
- **Chipeta Elementary** – 950 Chipeta Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501 • Principal: Jayme Chiaro • 970-254-6825
- **Dos Rios Elementary** – 265 Linden Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81503 • Principal: Cinnamon Cain • 970-254-7910
- **Dual Immersion Academy** – 552 W. Main St., Grand Junction, CO 81501 • Principal: Tyler McLaughlin • 970-254-6070
- **Fruitvale Elementary** – 585 30 Road, Grand Junction, CO 81504 • Principal: Angela Galyon • 970-254-5930
- **Lincoln Orchard Mesa Elementary** – 2888 B.5 Road, Grand Junction, CO 81503 • Principal: Shae McCurry • 970-254-7940
- **Loma Elementary** – 1360 13 Road, Loma, CO 81524 • Principal: Nicole Wimsatt • 970-254-6520
- **Mesa View Elementary** – 2967 B Road, Grand Junction, CO 81503 • Principal: Stacey Cohen • 970-254-7970
- **Monument Ridge Elementary** – 1501 K.4 Road, Fruita, CO 81521 • Principal: Emma-Leigh Larsen • 970-254-7050
- **New Emerson School** – 2660 Unaweep Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81503 • Principal: Aubrey Hoffman • 970-254-6500
- **Orchard Avenue Elementary** – 1800 Orchard Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501 • Principal: Teal Maxwell-Richards • 970-254-7560
- **Pear Park Elementary** – 432 30¼ Road, Grand Junction, CO 81504 • Principal: Zach Moore • 970-254-5960
- **Pomona Elementary** – 588 25½ Road, Grand Junction, CO 81505 • Principal: William Pfaffendorf • 970-254-4990
- **Rim Rock Elementary** – 1810 J.6 Road, Fruita, CO 81521 • Principal: Emily Currey • 970-254-6770
- **Rocky Mountain Elementary** – 3260 D½ Road, Clifton, CO 81520 • Principal: Tyler Jones • 970-254-4900
- **Shelledy Elementary** – 363 N. Mesa Street, Fruita, CO 81521 • Principal: Cami Kidd • 970-254-6460
- **Taylor Elementary** – 689 Brentwood, Palisade, CO 81526 • Principal: Shawn Wilson • 970-254-4870
- **Thunder Mountain Elementary** – 3063 F½ Road, Grand Junction, CO 81504 • Principal: Stephanie Williams • 970-254-5870
- **Tope Elementary** – 2220 N. 7th Street, Grand Junction, CO 81501 • Principal: Summer Kennedy • 970-254-7070
- **Wingate Elementary** – 351 S. Camp Road, Grand Junction, CO 81507 • Principal: Amie Schraeder • 970-254-4960

Middle Schools

- **Bookcliff Middle** – 540 29¼ Road, Grand Junction, CO 81504 • Principal: Brian Dickes • 970-254-6220
- **Fruita Middle** – 239 N. Maple, Fruita, CO 81521 • Principal: Kate Herrera • 970-254-6570
- **Grand Mesa Middle** – 585 31½ Road, Grand Junction, CO 81504 • Principal: Randy Foster • 970-254-6270
- **Mt. Garfield Middle** – 3475 Front Street, Clifton, CO 81520 • Principal: Danielle Bagwell • 970-254-4720
- **Orchard Mesa Middle** – 2736 C Road, Grand Junction, CO 81503 • Principal: Danny Medved • 970-254-6320
- **Redlands Middle** – 2200 Broadway, Grand Junction, CO 81507 • Principal: Audrey Moralez • 970-254-7000
- **West Middle** – 123 W. Orchard Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81505 • Principal: Scott Swartwood • 970-254-5090

High Schools

- **Central High School** – 550 Warrior Way, Grand Junction, CO 81504 • Principal: Zeb Hayward • 970-254-6200
- **Fruita Monument High School** – 1102 Wildcat Avenue, Fruita, CO 81521 • Principal: Newt Klusmire • 970-254-6600
- **Grand Junction High School** – 1400 N. 5th Street, Grand Junction, CO 81501 • Principal: Jory Sorensen • 970-254-6900
- **Palisade High School** – 3679 G Road, Palisade, CO 81526 • Principal: Dan Bollinger • 970-254-4800
- **R-5 High School** – 2150 Grand Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501 • Principal: Nicholas Steinmetz • 970-254-6880

K–5 School

- **Gateway School** – 42575 CO-141, Gateway, CO 81522 • Principal: Ari Goldberg • 970-254-7080

Academic Options

- **Career Center** – 2935 North Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81504 • Principal: Todd McClaskey • 970-254-6000
- **Mesa Valley Community School** – 2935 North Avenue, Building D, Grand Junction, CO 81504 • Principal: Todd McClaskey • 970-254-6000
- **Grand River Academy** – 600 N. 14th Street, Grand Junction, CO 81501 • Principal: Ari Goldberg • 970-254-6393

- **Juniper Ridge Community School** – 640 24½ Road, Grand Junction, CO 81501 • Director: Shauna Hobbs • 970-639-0884
- **Independence Academy** – 675 29 Road, Grand Junction, CO 81504 • Director: Lisa Gonsalves • 970-254-6850
- **Special Programs at Summit** – 1250 Grand Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501 • Site Administrator: Kristina Downing • 970-254-6885
- **CMU Tech** – 2508 Blichmann Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81505 • Principal: Dennis Bailey-Fournier • 970-255-2600
- **Mesa Valley Community** – 2387 Patterson Road, Grand Junction, CO 81505 • Director: Laurajean Downs • 970-254-7202

Board Policy Reference

The Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education regularly reviews and updates Board policies throughout the year. Because policies may be revised after this handbook is published, the **District website is the official source for the most current version of all Board policies, regulations, and exhibits.**

Families and students are encouraged to review policies related to student rights, responsibilities, attendance, discipline, technology use, safety, and other important topics by visiting the Board of Education Policy Search page on the District website:

www.d51schools.org/board-of-education

If you do not have internet access or need a printed copy of a policy, please contact your child's school or the District Administration Office for assistance.

Board Policy Reference

- **Administering Medicines to Students (Policy JLCD)**
- **Administration of Medical Marijuana to Qualified Students (Policy JLCDB)**
- **Alcohol Use/Drug Abuse by Students (Policy JICH)**
- **Alcohol Use/Drug Abuse by Students – Offenses Involving Alcohol or Controlled Substances (Regulation JICH-R)**
- **Bullying Prevention and Education (Policy JICDE)**
- **Code of Student Conduct (Policy JICDA)**
- **Compulsory Attendance Ages (Policy JEA)**
- **Digital Media and Video Use (Policy IMBA)**
- **Disciplinary Removal from Classroom (Policy JKBA)**
- **Educational Stability for Foster Care Students (Policy JFABE)**
- **Equal Educational Opportunities (Policy JB)**
- **First Aid and Emergency Medical Care (Policy JLCE)**
- **Graduation Requirements (Policy IKF)**
- **Homeless Students (Policy JFABD)**
- **Intra-District Choice/Open Enrollment (Policy JFBA)**
- **Performance-Based Promotion and Retention of Students, Grades K–8 (Policy IKE)**
- **Personal Security & Safety (Policy GBGB)**
- **Privacy and Protection of Confidential Student Information (Policy JRCB)**
- **School Choice/Open Enrollment (Policy JFBB)**
- **School Choice/Open Enrollment (Regulation JFBB-R)**
- **Screening/Evaluating of Students (and Treatment of Mental Disorders) (Policy JLDAC)**
- **Secret Societies/Gang Activities (Policy JICF)**
- **Secret Societies/Gang Activities (Regulation JICF-R)**
- **Sexual Harassment (Policy GBAA)**
- **Sexual Harassment (Policy JBB)**
- **Student Absences and Excuses (Policy JH)**
- **Student Concerns, Complaints & Grievances (Policy JII)**
- **Student Conduct (Policy JIC)**
- **Student Discipline Code (Policies JK–JKG)**
- **Student Dress Code (Policy JICA)**
- **Student Publications (Policy JICEA)**
- **Student Publications Code (Regulation JICEA-R)**
- **Student Records / Release of Information (Policies JRA/JRC)**
- **Student Suspension/Expulsion (Policies JKD/JKE)**
- **Student Use of Cell Phones and Other Personal Electronic Devices (Policy JICJ)**
- **Student Use of Information Technology Resources (Policy JS)**
- **Student Use of Information Technology Resources (Regulation JS-R)**
- **Student Use of Information Technology Resources – Responsible Use Agreement (Exhibit JS-E)**
- **Student Withdrawal from School/Dropouts (Policy JFC; Regulation JFC-R)**
- **Students with Food Allergies (Policy JLCDA)**
- **Tobacco-Free Schools (Policy ADC)**
- **Truancy (Policy JHB)**
- **Use of Physical Intervention (Policy JKA)**
- **Violent and Aggressive Behavior (Policy JICDD)**
- **Weapons in the Schools (Policy JICI)**

July 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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9	W	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	E	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	EE	29	30			

October 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	W	10
11	CD	IE/EC	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	E/MC	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	W	T	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	W	IE	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	E	CD	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	EC	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	W	27	28	29
30	31					

June 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



Presented to BOE 12/16/25

Classes Begin August 11/Kindergarten August 13

All Schools Classes Not in Session

W Teacher Workdays	T Teacher In-Service
August 6 and 10	August 5 and 7
October 9	January 5
January 4	
March 11	EE Teacher Ed Effectiveness
May 26	September 28

E Elementary Planning Only (MS/HS in Session)
September 8
April 8

IE/EC Elem Conference/MS/HS In-Service (No School)
October 13

CD Teacher Compensation Day (No School)
October 12
April 9

E/MC Elementary Planning/MS Conference (HS in Session)
November 13

IE Elementary Planning, MS/HS In-Service (No School)
March 12

EC Elem Conferences Only (MS/HS in session)
May 14

Check with your school for Parent Teacher conference dates

Schools Not in Session (Holidays and/or Vacation Breaks)

September 7	Labor Day
November 23-27	Thanksgiving Break
December 21-Jan 1	Winter Break
January 18	Martin Luther King Jr Day
February 15	President's Day
March 22-26	Spring Break

Statistical Record Data

Total number of contact days elementary - 170

Total number of contact days middle - 173

Total number of contact days high - 174

Classes Begin	August 11
1st Quarter Ends	October 8 (40 ES - 41 MS/HS)
2nd Quarter Ends	December 18 (42 ES/MS - 43 HS)
3rd Quarter Ends	March 10 (44 ES/MS/HS)
4th Quarter Ends	May 25 (44 ES - 46 MS/HS)

Alternative and school-specific calendars are available at your child's school or on the District website at www.d51schools.org

Student-Parent Handbook Acknowledgement Form

Please review the 2026–2027 Student & Parent Handbook with your child, including the Attendance, Conduct and Discipline Code, Directory Opt-Out procedure, and the Board Policies referenced throughout the handbook, which are available on the [District website](#). **After reviewing the information together, please sign and return this acknowledgment form to your child's school.**

- *We have received and reviewed the Mesa County Valley School District 51 2026-2027 Student-Parent handbook.*
- *We understand the district's procedures, regulations, and policies referred to in this handbook.*

Print Student Name

Grade

Student Signature

Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

Please return the signed form to the main office at your child's school.

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