



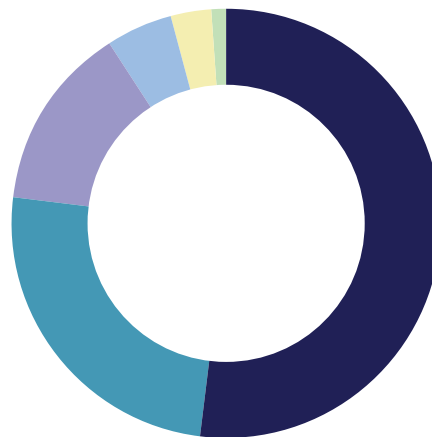
DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS



90,250
STUDENTS



59%
ARE ELIGIBLE FOR
FREE/REDUCED
PRICE LUNCH



- HISPANIC: 52%
- WHITE: 25%
- BLACK: 14%
- 2 OR MORE RACES: 5%
- ASIAN: 3%
- OTHER: 1%



ACCESS TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION IS ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAYS TO ADDRESS INEQUALITY AND CREATE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY.

Investments in strong postsecondary pathways—the meaningful connections between K-12 education and college and career—are vital to ensuring a better future for our young people.

As part of its recovery efforts, **Denver Public Schools (DPS)** is investing \$23 million of its federal stimulus funds during the 2021-22 school year to get students back on track for **success in college and careers**. In addition to expansive academic coaching and tutoring to accelerate student learning, DPS is investing in numerous other key pathways supports.

SUMMER EXPERIENCES



Denver district leaders are using stimulus funds to **maximize the summer months** and build robust opportunities for students—with a particular focus on connections to career pathways. As an example,

DPS is expanding its partnership with **Generation Teach**, a national program through which future teachers are able to gain real classroom experience under the supervision of master teachers. Over the summer, DPS high school students engaged in the educator career pathway will provide instruction for middle school students through Generation Teach. These high school students will receive training, gain hands-on classroom experience, and have the opportunity to debrief every classroom session with a master teacher. This investment will have the dual benefit of **combating learning loss** for middle school students while also providing a venue for **hands-on work-based learning** experiences for high school students pursuing teaching.

The district plans to offer a variety of other new summer learning experiences, including a **partnership with NASA** connected to STEM pathways, an experience targeted specifically at Black male students, and **numerous internship** and work-based learning opportunities.

Invest Forward is an initiative that encourages districts and states to prioritize investing a significant portion of their American Rescue Plan resources in helping students successfully access postsecondary education and succeed in future career pathways. As part of the effort to equip district and state leaders with high-impact strategies to guide their investments, Invest Forward will continue to highlight the work of **innovative local and state leaders** who are using the once-in-a-lifetime stimulus funding to give students a better tomorrow by investing in postsecondary pathways today.



“This is what matters. We want the same thing all districts want: career and college success and great life outcomes for our students. We know that for students to have careers that provide life-sustaining wages and offer advancement, they have to have some sort of postsecondary credential. As we are investing throughout a student’s educational career, we have to make sure we’re investing in the things that help them reach that success.”

—**BERNARD MCCUNE**, *Associate Chief of Academics, Denver Public Schools*



DUAL ENROLLMENT



Another priority for DPS stimulus investment is the expansion of concurrent enrollment opportunities, enabling more of its students to take **college-level classes** while still in high school. The district has a robust concurrent enrollment partnership with the **Community College of Denver**, and has worked to expand its partnerships to include 10-15 other higher education institutions. This includes new **virtual learning opportunities** offered via institutions outside of Colorado, expanding the range of course opportunities, specialized offerings, and personalized experiences available to DPS students. Denver has seen impressive growth in dual enrollment in recent years; during the school year, roughly **25 percent of DPS students** take advantage of concurrent enrollment course offerings. The district is using its stimulus dollars to accelerate those efforts and make it possible for even more students to participate and benefit.

A FOCUS ON FRESHMEN



DPS is also using stimulus funds to invest in a **9th grade on-track strategy**, including a partnership with the University of Chicago's Consortium on School Research to support students to success during their freshman year. Similarly, the district plans to expand its transition programs, which focus on **literacy, mathematics, and early postsecondary exploration** support for rising 9th grade students. Stimulus funds are enabling the district to scale its freshman support efforts to take root in more schools and reach more students.



LOOKING AHEAD: GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY



Denver Public Schools is using the stimulus opportunity to work closely with educators in the district to revisit strategies they've considered and wanted to pilot. The funding offers the chance to both create and expand, all with the goal of "knocking it out of the park for students." District leaders view the stimulus as an opportunity to invest in research-backed ideas and gain in-district proof points for continued funding, during the regular budget prioritization process, for the strategies with the greatest impact.