Regional Opportunities for Thriving Schools

MEDIA AUDIT REPORT
JUNE 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2022

This report contains a compilation of media mentions for Jeffco’s Regional Opportunities for Thriving Schools initiative between June 1 and December 31, 2022. Please note that duplicates have been removed and broadcast clips <60 days from the original release cannot be played.
MENTIONS BY MEDIA TYPE

- Online/Print: 77.2%
- TV: 16.7%
- Radio: 6.1%

PUBLICITY BY TIME

MENTIONS BY SENTIMENT

- Negative: 30.3%
- Neutral: 47%
- Positive: 22.7%

MENTIONS BY TIME

- June: 50,000
- July: 80,000
- August: 1,000,000
- September: 500,000
- October: 100,000
- November: 40,000
- December: 40,000
# Regional Opportunities for Thriving Schools

## Sections
- [RADIO (9)]
- [ONLINE + PRINT (73)]
- [BROADCAST (22)]

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**Total Number of Clips**: 100

## RADIO

### KOA-AM
- **Time**: Aug 25, 2022 10:00 PM MDT
- **Local Broadcast Time**: 10:00 PM MDT
- **Category**: Special
- **Call Sign**: KOAAM (ABC News Radio)
- **Market**: DMA: 16 Denver, CO
- **Language**: English

School closures and consolidations in Jefferson County due to falling enrollment numbers. Jeffco public schools recommended to the Board of Education closing 16 elementary since twenty nineteen.

### KOA-AM
- **Time**: Aug 26, 2022 1:03 AM MDT
- **Local Broadcast Time**: 1:03 AM MDT
- **Category**: Special
- **Call Sign**: KOAAM (ABC News Radio)
- **Market**: DMA: 16 Denver, CO
- **Language**: English

Forcing tough decisions for the Jefferson County School District, Jeffco public schools suggested to the Board of Education yesterday closing 16 elementary schools. I think it’s really hard to envision what you don’t know and to love what you do now. And so the hardest part is the transition and the closure and the grieving that a community goes through that Superintendent Tracy Dorland, who told Fox. Thirty one, the county has lost more than 5000 students since twenty nineteen.
Our top story, the **Jeffco Public Schools** Board of Education, is unanimously in favor of **closing** 16 elementary schools, impacting roughly 2500 students and more than 400 full time staff. The consolidation measure voted on last night. Families able to pick which school their students attend or simply move to the school the district chose for consolidation.

**Jeffco Public schools** suggesting to the Board of Education **closing** 16 elementary schools. I think it’s really hard to envision what you don’t know and to love what you do now. And so the hardest part is the transition and the closure and the grieving that a community goes through. Superintendent Tracy Dallen telling Fox 31 the county has lost more than 5000 students since 2019. The school board will vote on recommendations November 10th.

**The Jeffco Public Schools** Board of Education unanimously in favor of **closing** 16 elementary schools, impacting roughly 2500 students and more than 400 staff.

**10 Denver schools recommended for closure**

- **Date Collected**: Oct 25, 2022 10:34 PM MDT
- **Category**: National
- **Source**: DenverGazette.com
- **Author**: Melanie Asmar Chalkbeat Colorado
- **Est. Audience**: 16,025
- **Est. Publicity Value**: USD 175

Denver is not the only district considering school closures. The superintendent of neighboring **Jeffco Public Schools** has recommended **closing** 16 elementary schools due to low enrollment. Jeffco announced that recommendation Aug. 25, and its board is set to vote Nov. 10, giving the community about 11 weeks to provide feedback.

Denver will have a little more than three weeks until its vote.

**16 Jeffco schools to close**

- **Date Collected**: Nov 10, 2022 11:27 PM MST
- **Category**: Local
- **Source**: KUSA-TV
- **Est. Audience**: 168,464
- **Est. Publicity Value**: USD 2,897

GOLDEN, Colo. — After months of parents begging for a different solution, the **Jeffco Public Schools** board voted to close 16 schools on Thursday night.
The 16 schools to be closed include:

Emory Elementary
Peck Elementary
Thomson Elementary
Campbell Elementary
Peiffer Elementary
Colorow Elementary
Green Mountain Elementary
Molholm Elementary
Glennon Heights Elementary
Parr Elementary
Sheridan ... home to higher numbers of students on free and reduced school lunch.

"I am disturbed that if you are a student with free and reduced lunch, you are three times more likely to be at a school that is proposed to close, and if you are not white, you are two times more likely to be at a school that is closing," Debbie Mitchell said.

16 Jeffco elementary schools face closures; declining enrollment to blame

Date Collected Aug 25, 2022 7:38 PM MDT
Category Local
Source KUSA-TV

... School in Wheat Ridge
Wilmore Davis Elementary School in Wheat Ridge
Killerstrand Elementary School in Wheat Ridge

The school board will vote on the recommendations in November following community meetings and a public hearing.

Jeffco Public Schools began conversations about closing and consolidating some of its schools amid declining enrollment in July. The district already abruptly closed two elementary schools, Fitzmorris and Allendale in Arvada, at the end of the last school year.

A July presentation to the school board ... will make decisions in the choice process.

Members of the Jefferson County Education Association, which represents teachers, responded to the district’s recommendations with a letter asking the district to “engage in a transparent, equitable process to ensure everyone has a voice in the future of Jeffco Public Schools.”

The statement included their goal of retaining teachers and asking the district to "value the voices of all stakeholders – educators, support professionals, parents, students and our community."

The association suggested that the district consolidate schools, instead of ... closing them. They also suggested repurposing school space to serve as community centers, affordable housing and other ideas from the community.

SUGGESTED VIDEOS: Education stories from 9NEWS

[embedded content]

16 Jefferson County elementary schools slated for closure; Board of Education cites under enrollment; public meetings scheduled for September, October

Date Collected Aug 27, 2022 6:39 AM MDT
Category Local
Source The Canyon Courier (Evergreen, Colorado)
Author Andrew Fraelli
afraelli@coloradocommunitymedia.com

"This is not because of the individuals in these buildings, it is because of the lack of resources these schools have to provide the programming that we all want for our students,” Superintendent of Jeffco Public Schools Tracy Dorland said.

According to Relou, if approved, Jeffco will have 67 "District-managed" elementary schools, increasing the average distance between them from 1.3 miles to 1.5 excluding mountain area schools. Four hundred and twenty-two staff will be affected, as well as about 2,500 K-4 and K ... -5 students.

There will be two meetings for public comment from the community for each school closing one in September, another in October, continued Relou. The specific time and date for each school can also be found on the Board of Education’s website.

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16 schools are facing closure; Enrollment falling in district; proposal affects more than 2,400 elementary students in six cities

Jeffco Public Schools, Colorado’s second-largest school district, is recommending the closure of 16 elementary schools across Denver’s suburbs as the district faces declining enrollment, according to a presentation given to the school board Thursday.

The district’s Board of Education will vote Nov. 10 on whether to ... approve the proposed closures, which would affect more than 2,400 students and 422 full-time employees at schools in Arvada, Evergreen, Lakewood, Littleton, Westminster and Wheat Ridge.

16 schools face closure in Jefferson County

For each closure, the district has named a nearby receiving school for students to move.

The school board will vote on the recommendations in November following community meetings and a public hearing.

2022 in review: The year’s top Colorado education stories

Jeffco Public Schools will close 16 elementary schools [18] at the end of this school year and is also considering whether to close middle and high schools. Denver Public Schools was set to close 10 schools this year before the school board balked and sent the superintendent back to the drawing board.[19].

5 takeaways from the data that will shape Jeffco school closure decisions

More than half of Jeffco elementary schools are losing students, a change that’s leading to higher costs to educate those who remain and forcing schools to combine classrooms and make other compromises.

That’s according to school-level data published by Jeffco Public Schools as board members kick off a conversation about one of the hardest decisions they face: which schools to close or consolidate.

“Chaos” as Denver Public Schools cuts list of schools recommended for closure
The district announced late Thursday evening that it is now only proposing to close five schools instead of 10. The decision was announced just after nearby Jefferson County Public Schools’ Board of Education voted to go through with shutting down 16 elementary schools next year.

Jeffco Public Schools abruptly closed two elementary schools, Fitzmorris and Allendale in Arvada, at the end of the school year. Now, the district is working on plans to close more.

Colorado's second-largest district lost more students than any other district in the state, particularly in the eastern part of Jeffco's ...
Denver Public Schools students, parents ask board not to close five schools: "I would feel really sad"

Date Collected: Nov 14, 2022 6:04 PM MST
Category: Local
Source: Denver Post
Author: Jessica Seaman

Denver isn't the only school district facing low enrollment — or considering closing schools. Statewide K-12 enrollment continues to drop, and urban districts across the U.S., are facing similar challenges.

Last week, the Board of Education overseeing Jeffco Public Schools, the state's second-largest school district, voted to close 16 elementary schools. Next ... classes taught in English, according to the district.

Denver superintendent recommends closing 10 schools

Date Collected: Oct 25, 2022 5:44 PM MDT
Category: Organization
Source: Chalkbeat Colorado
Author: Melanie Asmar

Denver is not the only district considering school closures. The superintendent of neighboring Jeffco Public Schools has recommended closing 16 elementary schools due to low enrollment. Jeffco announced that recommendation Aug. 25, and its board is set to vote Nov. 10, giving the community about 11 weeks to provide feedback.

District staff in Jeffco expected to recommend closures, consolidated schools

Date Collected: Aug 25, 2022 2:12 PM MDT
Category: Local
Source: KUSA-TV

In the state's second-largest school district that can accommodate 96,000 students, only 69,000 students are currently enrolled in 155 neighborhood schools.

Jeffco Public Schools began conversations about closing and consolidating some of its schools amid declining enrollment in July. The district already abruptly closed two elementary schools, Fitzmorris and Allendale in Arvada, at the end of the last school year.

DPS CLOSURES: Parents, teachers "shaken"by news

Date Collected: Oct 28, 2022 9:37 AM MDT
Category: Local
Source: The Denver Post
Author: Jessica Seaman

K-12 schools across the nation are shrinking, and DPS isn't the only Colorado district considering closing schools.

Nearby, Jeffco Public Schools, the state's second-largest district, has proposed shuttering 16 elementary schools.

Districts have attributed declining enrollment to multiple factors, including declining birth rates and shifting populations. DPS has said gentrification ... The district did not provide an answer when asked by The Denver Post on Wednesday.
**DPS considers closing 10 schools; JeffCo considers closing 16**

*Date Collected: Oct 29, 2022 2:08 PM MDT*
*Category: National*
*Source: DenverGazette.com*
*Author: JESSICA GIBBS*

Jeffco has capacity for 96,000 students in district-run schools but is currently serving 69,000, according to the district. Closing the 16 schools would reduce Jeffco’s capacity to 89,000 students.

Jessica Tribbett, a Wheat Ridge parent with two children at Kullerstrand Elementary and a third she hoped to send there when old enough, said her family is devastated by their school’s proposed closure. Tribbett is galvanizing ... in the district. Her second-grade daughter has protested the plan. Kullerstrand’s principal greets students by name each day. Her children have social-emotional skills that "100% are attributable to our school," a tight-knit community, she said.

**Denver board votes down school closures after last-minute recommendation change**

*Date Collected: Nov 17, 2022 7:44 PM MST*
*Category: Organization*
*Source: Chalkbeat Colorado*
*Author: Melanie Asmar*

... Superintendent Alex Marrero to close two small schools next year: Math and Science Leadership Academy and Denver Discovery School.

Six of the seven board members — Xochilt "Sochi" Gaytán, Auon’tai Anderson, Scott Esserman, Michelle Quattlebaum, Charmaine Lindsay, and Carrie Olson — voted against closing the schools. One member, Scott Baldermann, voted for the closures.

The last-minute recommendation happened during Thursday’s meeting.

Marrero’s original recommendation, which he announced three weeks ago, was to close 10 schools with declining enrollment. After pushback from parents, teachers, ... to close only two of the district’s schools.

RJ Sangosti / The Denver Post

MSLA and DDS are the smallest of the 10 schools originally recommended for closure. MSLA is an elementary school with 115 students this year. DDS is a middle school with 93 students. A community committee suggested closing schools with fewer than 215 students.

The board also unanimously revoked a 2021 resolution that directed the superintendent to consolidate small schools. The revocation sends Marrero back to the drawing board on addressing declining enrollment. Elementary school enrollment has declined by more ... before Thursday’s vote. Each person was allotted three minutes to speak, and the session stretched for six hours. Many speakers were from the schools Marrero spared.

No one from MSLA or DDS spoke on Monday.

Denver’s rejection of school closures comes a week after the school board in neighboring Jeffco Public Schools unanimously voted to close 16 small elementary schools.

Even as Denver board members voted against closing schools Thursday, they made clear that closures aren’t off the table entirely as enrollment continues to decline. Denver schools are funded per pupil, and schools with fewer ...
The Board of Education will vote Thursday on whether to close five Denver schools

Students, parents and others on Monday asked Denver Public Schools to rethink closing five schools during a meeting that marked one of the last chances for the public to weigh in before the Board of Education votes later this week.

They filled the meeting room where a rope barrier separated the public and the directors. Many speakers asked the board to revoke a 2021 resolution that ... people used to address the board so they were handed microphones before they spoke.

“If I could not go to school here at Columbian (Elementary) anymore I would feel really sad,” said third-grader Cruz Lovato.

Last week, district leaders altered their plan by announcing they now are recommending closing five schools instead of 10. Columbian Elementary is one of the five schools removed from the list of schools recommended for closure.

The schools that the district is recommending closing are Denver Discovery School, Schmitt Elementary, Fairview Elementary, International Academy ... expects enrollment to fall for the foreseeable future.

“We know there’s been a lot of uncertainty,” said Superintendent Alex Marrero. “Regardless of the ultimate outcome, we are prioritizing the needs of our students.”

Denver isn’t the only school district facing low enrollment — or considering closing schools. Statewide K-12 enrollment continues to drop, and urban districts across the U.S., are facing similar challenges.

Last week, the Board of Education overseeing Jeffco Public Schools, the state’s second-largest school district, voted to close 16 elementary schools. Next ... the lower class schools are the ones being affected.”

When DPS announced its initial plan on Oct. 25, the district used four sets of criteria to decide which schools should close, including a threshold of fewer than 215 students.

With the changes announced last week, the district is now proposing closing the smallest of the 10 schools on the list. DPS officials haven’t said why they changed their plan beyond saying that if those five schools also receive the majority of the $5 million the district provides to subsidize the original 10 schools, according to the district.

While DPS has removed the ... other five schools from its list, it hasn’t ruled out closing them. Those schools "are still under consideration and will continue to be supported as we more closely engage with those respective communities,” according to a letter Marrero sent parents.

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**Online News**

**Denver Public Schools is no longer proposing to close five schools**

**Date Collected** Nov 10, 2022 8:35 PM MST
**Category** Local
**Source** Denver Post
**Author** Jessica Seaman

The district initially recommended closing 10 schools to tackle low enrollment

Denver Public Schools on Thursday partially reversed its proposal to close 10 schools by removing five of them from its recommended list.

The district’s Board of Education is expected to vote on the school closure plan on Nov. 17, but the proposal has drawn ... is still recommending for closure are:

Denver Discovery School

Schmitt Elementary

Fairview Elementary

International Academy of Denver at Harrington

Mathematics and Science Leadership Academy

DPS, the state's largest district, announced its decision Thursday evening just after neighboring Jeffco Public Schools' Board of Education voted to close 16 schools in Denver's suburbs. Both districts are facing declining enrollment, which they say is because of falling birth rates and shifting populations.

“Throughout this two-year process, the district remained committed to engaging with impacted school ...
Last week, district leaders altered their plan by announcing they now are recommending closing five schools instead of 10. Columbian Elementary is one of the five schools removed from the list of schools recommended for closure.

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While DPS has removed the ... other five schools from its list, it hasn't ruled out closing them. Those schools "are still under consideration and will continue to be supported as we more closely engage with those respective communities," according to a letter Marrero sent parents.
DPS, JeffCo take opposite approach regarding school closures, enrollment decline

Date Collected: Nov 18, 2022 6:31 PM MST  
Category: Local  
Source: Denver Channel  
Author: Rob Harris

... the drawing board as they address declining enrollment and budget shortfalls.

The DPS Board of Education voted 6-1 Thursday against proposed closures. But, as even board members themselves stipulated prior to their votes, the topic of closures is far from over.

Initially, the district recommended closing 10 schools with low enrollment. The list was later reduced to five, and then reduced again to just two schools at the beginning of Thursday's meeting. Members of the board were caught off-guard by the change, and ultimately rejected the proposal.

"I feel like we're playing politics with kids and ... to fewer than 12 births per 1,000 people in the year 2021. On top of that, rising home costs — particularly in the Denver metro — have pushed families out to suburbs and rural areas.

While Denver Public Schools has decided to tackle this topic another day — in an undetermined manner and timeline — JeffCo Public Schools has taken the opposite approach. Its Board of Education unanimously voted to close 16 schools.

"For us it was so clear, by every metric, that we needed to do something," JeffCo Board of Education member Mary Parker said.

Parker said that each board member, herself included, viewed the decision ...

Education: DPS proposes to close 10 schools

Date Collected: Oct 28, 2022 9:37 AM MDT  
Category: Local  
Source: The Denver Post  
Author: Jessica Seaman

K-12 schools across the U.S. are seeing fewer students enroll a trend that is hitting Colorado districts financially as schools are funded based on the number of students that attend. So in response, some districts are closing schools.

Next month, the school board overseeing Jeffco Public Schools, the state's second-largest district, will vote on whether to close 16 elementary schools. If approved, the decision would displace more than 2,400 students and roughly 400 full-time employees.

Families face uncertainty as 16 schools in Jefferson County could close next year

Date Collected: Sep 15, 2022 8:14 PM MDT  
Category: National  
Source: CBS News

Jeffco Public Schools families face uncertainty as the district considers closing 16 schools.

Five takeaways from Jefferson County schools data

Date Collected: Jul 24, 2022 6:24 PM MDT  
Category: National  
Source: DenverGazette.com  
Author: Yesenia Robles Chalkbeat Colorado

More than half of Jeffco elementary schools are losing students, a change that's leading to higher costs to educate those who remain and forcing schools to combine classrooms and make other compromises.
That's according to school-level data published by Jeffco Public Schools as board members kick off a conversation about one of the hardest decisions they face: which schools to close or consolidate.

School district proposed closing 16 elementary schools in consolidation move.
Parents are scrambling after Jeffco Public Schools proposed closing 16 elementary schools in a consolidation move.

"The thing that might be a little bit different (from previous years) is that there will be between the school that is closing and where (students) will be going, more interaction between those two schools to make the transition smoother at the end of the year," Relou said. "We have seen I can speak from my experience with the Fitzmorris closure in the spring of last year just how quickly after the uncertainty was over, ... philosophy at the time.

A common question Relou pointed out is why the closing school staff have to re-apply for jobs while the receiving school staff does not.

"The schools that are closing, those roles are going away. In the receiving schools, those are positions that are staying, they aren't changing. So those folks in them still have a right to those ... of Education President Stephanie Schooley asked whether the timing of hiring and knowing how many positions are open at receiving schools will line up.
"Closing 16 schools with no public process or input the way you have done it is not appropriate," Sarah Stites, a local business owner and former Jeffco teacher said.

Many parents and community members see the decision as rushed and lacking sufficient input from the community, calling the community meetings and public hearings that each closing elementary school had "performative," as Board member Paula Reed put it.

GOLDEN, Colo. — After months of parents begging for a different solution, the Jeffco Public Schools board voted to close 16 schools on Thursday night.

Overall, the elementary school closures will affect more than 2,400 children and 422 full-time employees.

In explaining the reason for their votes, school board directors said the district is in financial straits and that, ... with the community before releasing its proposal. All encouraged the board to vote against the school closures.
Jeffco Public Schools is beginning work on up to $32 million of projects to prepare buildings to receive as many as 2,600 displaced students from 16 schools closing.

The more than a dozen projects planned include renovating buildings to accommodate preschoolers and students with disabilities or adding more space for the increase in students.

The Jeffco Public Schools Board of Education voted unanimously Thursday in favor of closing 16 elementary schools in a consolidation move.

Jeffco Public Schools proposes closing 16 elementary schools

Jeffco Public Schools, Colorado's second-largest school district, is proposing to close 16 elementary schools across Denver's suburbs as the district faces declining enrollment, according to a presentation given to the school board on Thursday.

The district's Board of Education will vote on Nov. 10 on whether to ... school districts across Colorado and the U.S. are seeing fewer students enroll and are considering ways to consolidate. That includes Denver Public Schools, which is also looking to close schools in the coming years. Statewide K-12 enrollment fell by 1,174 students to 855,482 pupils in fall 2021.

DENVER — Jeffco Public Schools is proposing closing 16 elementary schools and consolidating them with other nearby schools because of declining enrollment in the district, officials told the district's school board Thursday evening.

The board will vote on the district's recommendations on Nov. 10 after a series of meetings over the next two months ... move would affect around
2,500 students and 422 full-time staff, according to the district. Families would be able to choose to move to the school that the district picks for consolidation or choose a different school.

Jeffco Public Schools superintendent talks about new year

Date Collected: Aug 16, 2022 1:26 PM MDT
Category: Local
Source: Denver Channel
Author: Nicole Brady

JEFFERSON COUNTY, Colo. — Jeffco Public Schools, Colorado’s second largest school districts with approximately 69,000 students enrolled, officially headed back to the classroom on Tuesday.

Denver7’s Nicole Brady sat down with Jeffco Public Schools superintendent Tracy Dorland to talk about issues facing schools, students and parents. Their discussion included school closures, bus driver shortages, teacher pay and future opportunities for students.

Jeffco Public Schools to look at closing more elementary schools

Date Collected: Jul 26, 2022 2:17 AM MDT
Category: National
Source: NewsBreak

Colorado’s second-largest school district has more than...

Jeffco Public Schools unanimously approves school closure, consolidation plan

Date Collected: Nov 10, 2022 7:44 PM MST
Category: Local
Source: Denver Channel
Author: Sydney Eisenberg

DENVER — The Jeffco Public Schools Board of Education voted unanimously Thursday in favor of closing 16 elementary schools in a consolidation move.

The proposal, which was presented to the district’s school board in August, includes the following closures and consolidations:

Jeffco Public Schools will close 16 schools in Denver’s suburbs due to declining enrollment

Date Collected: Nov 10, 2022 8:23 PM MST
Category: Local
Source: Denver Post
Author: Jessica Seaman

The Board of Education overseeing Jeffco Public Schools, the second-largest district in the state, voted unanimously Thursday to close 16 elementary schools as a way to tackle plunging enrollment.

The closures, most of which will take place at schools across Denver’s suburbs next year, are just the first step in the district’s consolidation plan. ... Jeffco Public Schools plans to announce next year which secondary schools it wants to close.

Jeffco Public Schools will soon consider closing schools due to low enrollment
In an upcoming meeting, Superintendent Tracy Dorland will recommend schools to be consolidated due to declining enrollment.

GOLDEN, Colo. — **Jeffco Public Schools** began conversations around **closing** and consolidating some of its schools Tuesday night, amid declining enrollment.

No schools have been named yet, and won’t be until late August.

Sixteen Jefferson County schools will be **closing** their doors beginning next school year. The **JeffCo Public Schools** Board on Thursday voted unanimously to close all the schools on a recommendation list addressing declining enrollment in small neighborhood schools.

**Jeffco Public Schools** is the latest in a series of metro-area school districts to see declining enrollment numbers. In a meeting scheduled for August 25th, Superintendent Tracy Dorland will recommend specific schools for closure.
Jeffco Schools staff expected to recommend closures, consolidated schools

Date Collected: Aug 25, 2022 1:53 PM MDT
Category: Local
Source: KUSA-TV

In the state's second-largest school district that can accommodate 96,000 students, only 69,000 students are currently enrolled in 155 neighborhood schools.

Jeffco Public Schools began conversations about closing and consolidating some of its schools amid declining enrollment in July. The district already abruptly closed two elementary schools, Fitzmorris and Allendale in Arvada, at the end of the last school year.

Jefferson County Public Schools plans to close Campbell Elementary, and parents, students and staff begin to grieve

Date Collected: Aug 26, 2022 7:16 PM MDT
Category: Local
Source: Colorado Public Radio
Author: Jenny Brunlin

"It was upsetting, she said, upon hearing about the closure. "My mother, myself, we came here ... so knowing that it's closing is losing that tradition so it was upsetting but you gotta do what you got to do, unfortunately."

She doesn't know yet where she'll send her child to school next year — but she'll miss Campbell Elementary.

"They helped get him to where he could open up. He was really shy and now that he's ... isn't a choice. I feel that it's important to be a courageous leader who is honest with the community about the realities that we're facing. And as I dug into the data with my team around enrollment site by site, what we discovered was there really wasn't a choice."

'Makes me worry': Parents react to Jeffco Public Schools closing 16 schools

Date Collected: Aug 25, 2022 10:14 PM MDT
Category: National
Source: CBS News
Author: Alan Gionet

Glennon Heights Elementary has been good for his children.

"We're in all the school programs," he shared. "I can walk to the corner and watch them get to school and watch them be safe."

Monthly PTA meeting pushes to save Wheat Ridge elementary school

Date Collected: Oct 5, 2022 7:58 AM MDT
Category: Local
Source: Denver Channel
Author: Colette Bordelon

... was trying to save their school.

"Even if we can change a few of their minds, that's really what we're trying to do," said the PTA President Kim St. Martin, referring to the Jeffco Board of Education.

Kulerstand is one of 16 schools that could close, after being selected in a proposal from Jeffco Public Schools. The proposal is scheduled to go before the Jeffco Board of Education for a vote on Nov. 10.

The plan would close 16 of the district's 85 elementary schools. Those with Jeffco Public Schools said they have space for 96,000 students, but only have around 69,000 enrolled. The extra space has spread resources too thin to provide the educational experience desired by school leaders.

Kimberly Elie, the executive director of communications for Jeffco Public Schools, said the plan was proposed because the number of school age children has been declining for the last 21 years.

"Our elementary schools specifically were set up and built, many in the 1950s and 1960s, to serve the community that existed at that time," Elie said. "This has been work that's been put ... statistics in terms of the inequity around this decision in terms of the schools are closed." Jessica Tribbett said during the meeting. "There's just a lot of holes, and they didn't take a thoughtful, methodical process coming to this proposal and are trying to shove it through."
Elou said **Jeffco Public Schools** honors and respects the wishes of parents who do not want their schools to close.

“There's not a single community member at any of these 16 schools that are being recommended for closure and consolidation that want their school to close. Nobody wants to close schools,” Elou said. “Unfortunately, ... forth specific parameters around what that phase two will look like,” Elou said. “But we believe it would be less about school closures and consolidations and more about how do we reimagine delivering a secondary school experience that helps prepare students for post-secondary life when they leave **Jeffco Public Schools**.”

Denver also heard from parents of Vivian Elementary School, who wanted to provide the following statements for the article:

It is really hard to put Vivian in a nutshell because it is such a special place for us. The student body is so diverse that it feels like an inner-city school tucked ... the kids that are always taking the brunt of school closures. And this one hurts so badly because this school is making strides at leveling the playing field for our most at risk children. In the past three years, most every other school backslid, but the kids at Vivian are excelling and working on closing achievement gaps! That alone should keep us from being shuttered. If they close our doors, our D/HH program will go to a different receiving school, further dividing our community.

Mollie McElveney Crampton

It is the perfect example of a model school that prioritizes critical thinking skills, ...
Parents are scrambling after Jeffco Public Schools proposed closing 16 elementary schools in a consolidation move.

Bergen Meadow Elementary School parents and staff have learned more about plans to close the school and move students in with its sister school, Bergen Valley, and they are generally in favor of the plan.

About a dozen attended a meeting hosted by Jeffco Public Schools officials on Sept. 13 to hear more about the pending closure and the school district’s next steps. They learned that the plan is to expand Bergen Valley, so there is room for up to four classes of each grade level plus room for a preschool. They also learned that parents and staff members will have ... the great work done in this building. In addition, how can we create a more thriving experience? What could it look like to bring the Bergen communities under one roof?"

The district’s long-awaited plan was released Tuesday evening and it calls for closing eight elementary schools, one K-8 school and a middle school. It also identifies where the displaced students from those schools will go if the board approves the recommendation.

District demographic data shows the largest percentage of students enrolled at nine of the 10 schools is Hispanic or ... Marquez said. “This is a reality of gentrification that we’re seeing. This is what happens when folks decide to move into a new neighborhood and not send their child to that (neighborhood) school.”

Colorow Elementary School has small class sizes and it’s so close that McBride is able to walk her four children to school each day, meaning there’s no need to worry about transportation.
That all could soon change.

School closures; “Chaos” as DPS reduces list

Denver Public Schools’ decision to slash the list of schools it is recommending closing in half ignited further pushback from education groups on Friday, with some questioning why the Board of Education didn’t halt the plan’s rollout before it caused “chaos.”

The district announced late Thursday evening that it is now only proposing to close five schools instead of 10. The decision was announced just after nearby Jeffco Public Schools’ Board of Education voted to go through with shutting down 16 elementary schools next year.

Schools targeted for closure in Denver, Jeffco have disproportionately high numbers of students of color; data shows

At majority of schools recommend for closure, more than half of students qualified for free-or-reduced lunch

The majority of the 26 schools that Denver Public Schools and Jeffco Public Schools have recommended closing enroll a higher percentage of students of color than their respective districts enroll overall, according to an analysis of state data by The Denver Post.

Takeaways from crucial data

More than half of Jeffco elementary schools are losing students, a change that’s leading to higher costs to educate those who remain and forcing schools to combine classrooms and make other compromises.
That’s according to school-level data published by Jeffco Public Schools as board members kick off a conversation about one of the hardest decisions they face: which schools to close or consolidate.

Some teachers may lose their jobs after Jeffco Public Schools decided to close 16 schools.

K-12 schools across the U.S. are seeing fewer students enroll — a trend that is hitting Colorado districts financially as schools are funded based on the number of students that attend. So in response, some districts are closing schools.

Next month, the school board overseeing Jeffco Public Schools, the state’s second-largest district, will vote on whether to close 16 elementary schools. If approved, the decision would displace more than 2,400 students and roughly 400 full-time employees.

In contrast, neighboring Jeffco Public Schools shared extensive information about each of its under-enrolled schools over the summer, then released a recommended closure list in August. Board members voted unanimously last week to close 16 elementary schools, overriding the pleas of some parents and teachers.

WATCH LIVE: 16 Jeffco elementary schools face closures, declining enrollment to blame
The school board will vote on the recommendations in November following community meetings and a public hearing.

**Jeffco Public Schools** began conversations about closing and consolidating some of its schools amid declining enrollment in July. The district already abruptly closed two elementary schools, Fitzmorris and Allendale in Arvada, at the end of the last school year.

Jefferson County school board approves closing 16 schools

We found that lower birth rates played a role, as did some students enrolling in publicly funded but independently run charter schools. Other students ended up in the outer reaches of the metro area as their parents sought more affordable housing.

Jefferson County school board approves closing 16 schools

We found that lower birth rates played a role, as did some students enrolling in publicly funded but independently run charter schools. Other students ended up in the outer reaches of the metro area as their parents sought more affordable housing.

Below, we shed light on the numbers ... the district's students attended charter schools in 2005. By 2010, that percentage had increased to 11% and by 2020 it was 23%.

**Colorado's own channel to try news.** >> right now at 7 new details revealed on the fbi's raid at mar-a-lago as the affidavit leading to the search isn't sealed with a lot of redactions. what we know about the new documents recovered. plus, a brawl breaks out at a di a train. but will any of the individuals involved be criminally charged. tunnel on this and that new information and big concerns tonight for parents of students in Jeffco school after the district recommends closing 16 schools. what some parents are now doing to try to keep their kids schools open. and it's another busy night at 7 and we start with new information about that fight caught on camera at a train. just take a look at some of this video. the brawl breaking out as the train was moving. two's victim has been speaking with police and security experts about possible charges against some of the families here involved. yeah, we spoke to the denver police department late this afternoon, they're telling me that they will not file
housing. >> there are open houses at both schools this week for people interested in submitting plans. >> Jefferson County will have 15 elementary schools closing at the same

the stakes so I heard amargeet kastor say it is time for lord stanley to get his team tan once again. well we happen to believe the lord stanley belongs in the great of colorado in the Mile-High city of Denver, Colorado. we expect our fans to bring home the stanley cup and when they do mayor pastor, I'm going to put on the line our great beer, our great state and I expect to see you. In the coal ash jersey go afes and Tampa's mayoral jenni castor responded to the bet this afternoon. yeah, she says it's going to go the other way of course, so she says should the lightning lose she'll be sending peia cigars and cuban pastries. >> we'll see what happens with the mayoral bet coming up in a few days. yeah, there may be more schools closing coming for Jeffco public schools for Fitzmorris elementary school closed at the end of the school year due to declining enrollment. news reporter courtney yoon explains how the district will

can, wooos says by the end of August the superintendent will make recommendations on which elementary schools will be consolidated or closed going into the 2023 2024 school year. >> it closing the small schools but also in a sense getting to bigger school with more opportunities can be a fresh start as far as families you kind of roll with it and do the best January gets courtney yoon binance well Jeffco public schools plans to release a report on all five of their elementary schools at the end of the month after deciding which schools to close, the district says that they'll work closely with families to help them with their enrollment choices, yesterday's high was 88 degrees and that's above it all mile high for this time of year which is eighty three. >> however, we haven't been in the nineties for a couple of days. It's all about to change clear skies we've got around here now and fifty four degrees so kind of a mild morning and we do have an ozone action alert day and that is because of the heat and the concentration

waiting for more information from colorado state patrol before they begin their process. >> I'm sure we'll have much more on this one. thank you. Colorado's second largest school district is losing students by the tens of thousands tonight Jeffco public schools started conversations about consolidating elementary schools due to declining enrollment. >> now news reporter lisa jillian is out there for us tonight, at least district close to schools over the summer because of low enrollment, now they're talking about closing even more. that's right, kyle. that presentation to the board tonight said that Jeffco have the largest decline in student population in the state, they lost more than five thousand students between twenty nineteen and twenty twenty two. the board members the superintendent both talked about tonight to all that has taken on both students and even teachers that are still in the district. so among other things, tonight's presentation showed how the superintendent will prioritize schools for closure. one of those what's called urgent priority meaning if nothing is done about:
from them or choosing not to identify the driver because he is currently not facing any charges in relation to the crash. >> but this was some time ago. i mean do we know when we might expect charges? >> yeah, we're coming up on six weeks since the crash i've reached out to the weld county district attorney's office earlier today and they told me they're still waiting for more information from colorado state patrol before they can do their process and make a decision on whether charges are warranted. >> ok, thank you, mark. colorado's second largest school district is losing students by the tens of thousands. so tonight jeffco public schools started a conversation about closing elementary schools due to declining enrollment. news reporter lewis daily news out there for tonight. louis district close to schools over the summer because of low enrollment. now they're looking at even more. that's right, kyle. that presentation to the board tonight said jeffco had the largest decline in student population losing more than 5000 students between twenty nineteen and twenty two.

in april of last year. >> one person was killed. the report written by state troopers who responded to the crash indicated that the driver may have been distracted and was driving carelessly states the truck made no effort to avoid the cars in front of it either by braking or steering away from them or choosing not to identify the driver because he is currently not facing any charges in relation to the crash. >> but this was some time ago. i mean do we know when we might expect charges? >> yeah, we're coming up on six weeks since the crash i've reached out to the weld county district attorney's office earlier today and they told me they're still waiting for more information from colorado state patrol before they can do their process and make a decision on whether charges are warranted. >> ok, thank you, mark. colorado's second largest school district is losing students by the tens of thousands. so tonight jeffco public schools started a conversation about closing elementary schools due to declining enrollment. news reporter lewis daily news.

at seven o'clock we're going to have full game day coverage of all three games again over on channel 20 we have an update for you now on your wednesday morning the jeffco public schools board of education laid out their timeline for deciding which schools to consolidate and close to tackle declining enrollment. the board was given a presentation last night on data for how enrollment is looking. jeffco saw the largest decline in student population in the state losing more than five thousand students between 20 , 19 and twenty 20 to the presentation showed how the superintendent will prioritize schools for closure on his urgent priority meeting if nothing is done about the school by november it could abruptly close in spring of twenty twenty three the other is high priority one way partnerships which means if it's not consolidated risks closing down in one to two years. superintendent doland said the situation is to a point where they've run out of time and they really have to move fast and i believe that the right approach for now especially for our urgent.

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off to a great start and then this was just all smiles until thursday's update from Jeffco public schools. it was back to school night last night and as back to school night is starting, we get a notice from the board that says peck is being recommended to close and that we would be transferred to a nearby school seacrest elementary pack is one of 16 elementary schools the district recommends closing citing low enrollment and fewer elementary school kids. >> I've worked in education before and i know that even with the best of intentions like the year of a closing school can be tricky supporting 16 schools closing in one year like culturally feels really concerning for the kids who are involved let's call picked peck for good reason has a great academic program. it's also an integrated school which was really important to us economically and racially is point three miles away from

students would be merging with other schools nearby. >> one family was sharing their reaction with nbcm news reporter m. brennan. >> we took a picture in front of the elementary sign and he was just a little behind a reluctant smile on the first day of school: the giant backpack on his back his clothes were a little bit like leila frandina eager to take pictures. >> you could kind of see how nervous he is when he first started patrick's second year at peck elementary school in arvada was off to a great start and then this year he was just all smiles until thursday's update from Jeffco public schools. it was back to school night last night and as back to school night is starting, we get a notice from the board that says peck is being recommended to close and that we would be transferred to a nearby school seacrest elementary pack is one of 16 elementary schools the district recommends closing citing low enrollment and fewer elementary school kids. >> I've worked in education before and i know that even with the best of intentions like the year of a closing school can be tricky supporting 16 schools closing in one year like culturally feels really concerning for the kids who are involved. Lisa picked peck for good reason, has a great academic program.

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>> what is the formula? parents will have a lot of questions. >> Reporter: and emphasizes the concerns of the time line set. >> is three weeks enough time?>> Reporter: now, current board member taye anderson tweeted out after that list came out that he at this time would vote no on closing all ten schools, dps says all school based staff would be guaranteed a role and that they would have an opportunity to follow their current students into the transition. we have more information about next steps online at cbscolorado.com. for now in denver, karen morfit covering colorado first. >> columbine is columbian elementary, the Jeffco public schools are holding public hearings this week for parents to voice their thoughts as the district works to consolidate schools. 16 elementary schools could
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of all viruses, cover your cough, wash hands often and stay home when you're sick. >> tomorrow the jefferson county board of education is set to move on if it will move ahead with closing 16 jeffco public schools and this will be the final decision. it comes as the district faces declining enrollment and what that means. the district has held listening sessions and is announcing the 16 elementary closures and families have voiced their concern. we will cover this vote for you tomorrow. >> time to check in with first alert meteorologist lauren whitney after a windy day. right now i guess why not. take another look at how things are going in that very tight congressional district. adam frisch and laurence boebert. i guess you could call it a statistical tie right now. we're following that and will have latest tomorrow morning. >> hi, lauren. >> let's take a look at what we are watching in the first alert weather center. we'll have me in just a moment. we have cold temperatures and snow outside. we are having a few technical difficulties.

rsv season so when babies were born, they are protected with antibodies from the mother. >> reporter: with colorado kids right now, there's little help, as they fill our hospitals, it is impacting other young patients waiting for medical care. >> we have had to postpone some nonurgent surgeries and procedures for children. >> reporter: kelly werthmann covering colorado first. >> dr. carney offered familiar tips about stopping the spread of all viruses, cover your cough, wash hands often and stay home when you're sick. >> tomorrow the jefferson county board of education is set to move on if it will move ahead with closing 16 jeffco public schools and this will be the final decision. it comes as the district faces declining enrollment and what that means. the district has held listening sessions and is announcing the 16 elementary closures and families have voiced their concern. we will cover this vote for you tomorrow. >> time to check in with first alert meteorologist lauren whitney after a windy day. right now i guess why not. take another look at how things

pressing to keep some of the schools open. collette. >> they want to keep some of them open, and the people at the meeting tonight to admit they're likely some schools that could close right away. they believe there's room for a kind of graduated plan. one that doesn't close all 16 schools in one fell swoop. >> it's a packed pta meeting for color strand elementary school. >> we have a huge list of people who want to get involved because what they're talking about on tuesday, we have a month until the jeffco vote is getting closer and closer, get that there's a short fall. but i think closing 16 at one time is a huge undertaking. >> that's the plan being considered by the jeffco board of education. closing 16 of the district's 85 elementary schools saying the number of school age children in the community has been declining for the last 2 decades. >> lisa hidalgo: we have capacity in jeffco public schools to serve to serve 96,000 students. we currently have about 69,000 students
rural areas, so while denver public schools have decided to tackle this topic another day, >> jeffco public schools have taken the opposite approach for us, it was so clear was so clear, but by every metric that we needed to do something last week, the jeffco board voted unanimously to close 16 elementary schools. >> it was a decision that was understandably devastated, the parents and students, this meeting is adjourned >> but it was one the board member said had to be people traditionally, have postponed closing schools and this is true in all school districts. nobody wants to do it. i think every one of us on the board, felt that that was a hard thing to do, but it was necessary. i'm looking at equity mainly to the resources that educational services, academic success of every child, making sure they have the same opportunity all across the district. >> for denver, 7, i'm robbers. >> anne trujillo: another factor when it comes to

statewide data, they identified a few key reasons why this is happening, chief among them, people are moving having fewer children, we'll take denver county, for example, the birth rate fell from 17 per 1000 people in the year 2000 to fewer than 12 in 2021, and rising home costs push a lot of families out to suburban areas, rural areas, jeffco public schools last week voted unanimously to close 16 schools because of declining enrollment. the decision the board member said was difficult but necessary, people traditionally, >> have postponed closing schools. this is true in all school districts. nobody wants to do it. and so they will propose of a school closure and then they'll back off and say, ok, we decided not to do it. i'm looking at equity mainly through the resources, the educational services, the academic success of every child, making sure they have the same opportunity. >> all across the district. >> shannon ogden: colorado funds education on a per

kind of see how nervous he is when he first started hah." padrics second year at peck elementary in arvada14:12 "and then this year, just all smiles." was off to a great start.20:03 cu phone "yeah, this is last wednesday." until thursdays update from jeffco public schools.3:22 cu "and like as back to school night is starting, we get a notice from the board that says peck is being recommended to close and that we would be transferred to a nearby school, seacrest elementary." peck is one of 16 elementary schools the district recommends closing. car passersciting low enrollment and fewer elementary school kids.4:10 cu "were talking about a district that feels like they dont have enough resources to keep the schools open and supporting 16 schools closing in one year, like culturally, feels really concerning for the kids who are involved." is a great academic program. its also an integrated school which was really important to us, economically and racially." 4:55 med "right now, peck is .3 miles away from us and seacrest is a mile-and-a-half.

year, that school district is just outside of denver,. they're considering closing 16 elementary schools due to declining enrollment. if the proposal passes - those students would merge with other schools nearby, one family shared their reaction - with 9news reporter noel brennan. 3:21:13 cu phone "you're speaking my language with pictures, thats my favorite ha "behind a hesitant smile on the first day of school 17:58 cu phone "his backpack was so huge." is a mom like leta frandina eager to take pictures. 18:52 ots "you can kind of see how nervous he is when he first started hah." padrics second year at peck elementary in arvada14:12 "and then this year, just all smiles." was off to a great start.20:03 cu phone "yeah, this is last wednesday." until thursdays update from jeffco public schools.3:22 cu "and like as back to school night is starting, we get a notice from the board that says peck is being recommended to close and that we would be transferred to a nearby school, seacrest elementary."
Jefferson County school district learned this week there's a chance they'll have to move schools next year. That school district is just outside Denver. They're considering closing 16 elementary schools due to declining enrollment. If the proposal passes, those students would merge with other schools nearby. One family shared their reaction with 9news reporter Noel Brennan. 3 21:13 cu phone "you're speaking my language with pictures, that's my favorite ha." Behind a hesitant smile on the first day of school 17:58 cu phone "his backpack was so huge." is a mom like Letia 3 Fredina eager to take pictures. 18:52 ots "you can kind of see how nervous he is when he first started hah." Padrics second year at Peak Elementary in Arvada. 14:12 "And this year, just all smiles." was off to a great start 20:03 cu phone "yeah, this is last Wednesday." until Thursday's update from Jeffco Public Schools. 3:22 cu "And I like as back to school night is starting, we get a notice."