A+ Denver’s DPS Report

Start with the Facts: How is DPS doing?
DPS’s Grade 3-5 performance is lower than 4 of the 6 similar districts.
Both FRL and Non-FRL students outgrew their state counterparts and both have done so since 2008.

District FRL students had higher MGP than the state non-FRL students in 2014.

District FRL students have had consistently lower growth than the district non-FRL students. The gap widened in 2014.
Generally, schools with higher FRL percentages have lower status.

Some schools did not follow this pattern in 2014 (circled in the graphs)
These schools have all had MGPs at 60 or higher for at least five consecutive years. Several schools are found in 2 or more content areas. Efforts should be made to determine how these schools are successful in promoting TCAP MGP Growth.

*Indicates consecutive TCAP MGPs of 60 or more since 2005. Italics indicate schools that were present in 2 content areas.

Schools that opened after 2009-2010 school year were not included in this analysis. Schools with N<20 are also excluded.
### Schools that gained most/least across grades and subjects between ’05-’14

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Change 05 to 14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Garden Place Elementary School</td>
<td>-3296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyatt Academy</td>
<td>-9739</td>
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<td>Maxwell Elementary School</td>
<td>-5644</td>
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<td>Hallett Fundamental Academy</td>
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<td>Schmitt Elementary School</td>
<td>-7698</td>
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<td>Goldrick Elementary School</td>
<td>-3512</td>
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<tr>
<td>Columbian Elementary School</td>
<td>-1816</td>
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<td>Doull Elementary School - 2</td>
<td>-2258</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles M. Schenck (Cms)</td>
<td>-2652</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kipp Sunshine Peak Academy</td>
<td>-4732</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ellis Elementary School - 26</td>
<td>-2652</td>
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<tr>
<td>George Washington High School</td>
<td>-3378</td>
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<tr>
<td>South High School - 8086</td>
<td>-8086</td>
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<tr>
<td>Westerly Creek Elementary School</td>
<td>-9425</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smith Renaissance School</td>
<td>-8006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barnum Elementary School</td>
<td>-52</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hill Campus Of Arts And Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smiley Middle School - 7992</td>
<td>-7992</td>
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<tr>
<td>North High School - 6314</td>
<td>-6314</td>
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<td>Skinner Middle School - 7942</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lena Archuleta Elementary School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brown International Academy</td>
<td>-1076</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montclair Elementary School</td>
<td>-6002</td>
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<td>Valdez Elementary School - 0408</td>
<td>-100</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: The bar chart indicates the change in school performance between 2005 and 2014 for each school listed.
New Denver Plan Goals

Overarching Goal:

Great Schools in every neighborhood
By 2020, 80% of students from every region within DPS will attend a high performing school in their region, as measured by the district’s school performance network.

- **School readiness**
  - By 2020, 80% of BPS third-graders will be at or above grade level in reading and writing.

- **Ready for college & career**
  - By 2020, the four-year graduation rate for students who start with DPS in ninth grade will increase to 90%
  - By 2020, we will double the number of students per class who graduate college and career ready while raising the bar (adding Science and Social Studies in addition to English and Math).

- **Support the whole child**
  - By 2012, a task force, including DPS staff, community partners and city agencies focused on providing services to DPS students, will recommend to the Board of Education a metric to measure this goal and track progress.

- **Close opportunity gap**
  - By 2020, the graduation rate for African Americans and Latino students will increase by 30%
  - The proficiency in reading and writing for third-grade African American and Latino students will increase by 25%
Great Schools in Every Neighborhood

By 2020, 80% of students from every region within DPS will attend a high performing school in their region, as measured by the district’s school performance framework.

What gains does DPS need to make to meet goal?

% Students in Blue/Green Schools by Geographical Region

- 2% annual increase (about 300 students)
- 3% annual increase (about 550 students)
- 5% annual increase (about 950 students)
- 6% annual increase (about 800 students)

*Note: 2008 was the first year that SPF was published. The regions are based on the 2014-15 school locations. All school types are included.
School Readiness:
What gains are needed for reading?

3rd grade literacy* % Proficient or Above

Actual

Target
Ready for College & Career:
What gains do we need to make with students to meet our goals?

DPS 9th Grade Cohort Graduation Rate

Actual | Goal
--- | ---
60.4 | 65.7
65.7 | 67.8
67.8 | 68.6
68.6 | 71.6
71.6 | 74.7
74.7 | 77.8
77.8 | 80.8
80.8 | 83.9
83.9 | 87.0
87.0 | 90.0

DPS language from Superintendent’s message to board two weeks ago:

“While DPS has made steady progress over the past several years, we must accelerate our trajectory to meet the Denver Plan 2020 goals.”

“Our growth is not sufficient to ensure All Students succeed.”

“Substantive gaps remain and are growing in both status and growth.”

“Our elementary school reading scores continue to show a lack of necessary programs. Reading achievement in elementary schools is not where it needs to be to ensure students are successful in subsequent grades.”

A+ Denver would add that there is a serious problem with principal retention, selection, support, retention and possibly compensation.

Last, that the district does not know why some schools succeed and others do not; there must be better understanding at all levels of the district.
Superintendent Boasberg’s message to board:

“Hypothesis: Studying successful practices at our outlier schools and deepening “cross pollination” systems will support us in identifying and replicating best practices to accelerate gains across all schools.”

A+ Denver agrees 100%