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SCHOOL SURVEY SERIES

EXPLORING COLORADO'S PRIVATE EDUCATION SECTOR

Andrew D. **Catt**

OCTOBER **2015**

Friedman
Foundation

For
Educational
Choice

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PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH

About the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice

The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and nonpartisan organization, solely dedicated to advancing Milton and Rose Friedman's vision of school choice for all children. First established as the Milton and Rose D. Friedman Foundation in 1996, the Foundation promotes school choice as the most effective and equitable way to improve the quality of K-12 education in America. The Friedman Foundation is dedicated to research, education, and outreach on the vital issues and implications related to school choice.

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FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION SURVEY PROJECT AND PROFILE

TITLE: *Exploring Colorado's Private Education Sector*

SURVEY SPONSOR AND DEVELOPER: The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice

SURVEY DATA COLLECTION AND QUALITY CONTROL: The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice

INTERVIEW DATES: December 15, 2014 to March 9, 2015

INTERVIEW METHOD: Web; SurveyMonkey

LANGUAGE(S): English only

SAMPLE FRAME: Non-Probability Sampling of Establishments

SAMPLE PROVIDER: Colorado Department of Education; Private School Review; National Center for Education Statistics

POPULATION SAMPLE: Attempted census of all K–12 private schools in Colorado

SAMPLE SIZE: Colorado Private School Principals/Administrators = 281

MARGINS OF ERROR: N/A

RESPONSE RATES (RR) USING AAPOR RR2: ≤57.7% (see Appendix A)

WEIGHTING? None

OVERSAMPLING? None

The survey's sponsor and sole funder was the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice. For more information, contact: Drew Catt at dcatt@edchoice.org.

The author is responsible for overall survey design; question wording and ordering (see Appendix B); this paper's analysis, charts, and writing; and any unintentional errors or misrepresentations.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Exploring Colorado's Private Education Sector is the fourth entry in the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice's *School Survey Series*, following our reports on Indiana, Ohio, and Nevada. This report synthesizes information about Colorado's private schools from two separate surveys conducted by the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) and the Friedman Foundation.

If we assume the Friedman Foundation survey data are representative of the state's private schools, then Colorado's private schools have enough empty seats to increase current enrollment (45,697 students) by approximately 33 percent. We estimate total enrollment capacity to be more than 60,000 seats, including those currently filled by students.

When it comes to school choice programs, 69 percent of respondent Colorado private schools said they would participate in an education savings account (ESA) program; 71 percent said they would participate in a tax-credit scholarship program; and 66 percent said they would participate in a district-run voucher program similar to the Douglas County Choice Scholarship program.

Additional findings from the Friedman Foundation survey include:

- 73 percent of respondent Colorado private schools enroll at least one student with special needs
 - o Half of the respondent schools said 5 percent or more of their enrollments are students with special needs
 - o Four respondent schools exclusively enroll students with special needs
- 40 to 46 percent of respondent schools charge tuition rates between \$3,500 and \$5,999 for students in kindergarten through middle school
- 37 percent of respondent schools charge \$10,000 or more for high school
- Half of the respondent schools provide an average of \$2,000 or less in tuition assistance per student
- Half of the respondent schools provide tuition assistance to up to 25 percent of their students
- 84 percent of respondent schools require their students to take a nationally norm-referenced test or the state assessment to measure academic performance
 - o 54 percent of those schools administer the test to "most" grade levels
 - o 31 percent of those schools administer the test to "all" grade levels
 - o 38 percent of respondent schools administer the Iowa Test of Basic Skills
 - o 8 percent of respondent schools administer the state assessment
- 55 percent of respondent schools reported high or very high concern with rules and regulations relating to testing and accountability
- 71 percent of respondent schools reported high or very high concern with rules and regulations relating to curriculum and instruction

Findings from the USDOE's survey include:

- Colorado private schools enroll an average of 150 students
- 26 percent of Colorado's private school students belong to at least one racial minority group, compared to approximately 44 percent of all Colorado school-aged children

- 55 percent of Colorado’s private school students are female
- 72 percent of Colorado private school graduates continue their education at a four-year college
- 32 percent of Colorado private schools serve grades PK–8
- 11 percent of Colorado private schools serve grades PK–12
- 56 percent of Colorado private schools offer prekindergarten, compared to 34 percent of Colorado public schools
- Colorado private schools’ average K–12 student-full-time K–12 teacher ratio is 9.0:1
- Colorado private schools operate 7.1 hours per day, on average
- Colorado private schools operate 174 days per year, on average
- 20 percent of Colorado’s private schools are located in Denver County
- 11 percent of Colorado’s private schools are located in Arapahoe County
- 10 percent of Colorado’s private schools are located in Boulder County
- 8 percent of Colorado’s private schools are located in Jefferson County
- 76 percent of Colorado’s private schools belong to at least one association
- The largest private school associations in Colorado are the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) and the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)

OVERVIEW

Private school choice has a complex history and encouraging future in Colorado. It is the home of the nation's first and only voucher program created and authorized by a public school district, and as of the publication of this report, it is working its way to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Although Colorado lawmakers created a pilot voucher program in 2003 that would have served low-achieving students from low-income families in 11 school districts, the program was struck down by the courts. A judge in Denver said the program violated the local control over instruction that were vested in locally elected school boards by the state constitution, and the Colorado Supreme Court agreed.¹

The Douglas County Choice Scholarship Program, a universal, districtwide voucher program, launched in 2011 and briefly served 494 students in 21 schools in and around the Douglas County School District (DCSD). In order to be eligible, students must be residents of DCDS for at least one year and must attend a DCDS public school when applying to the program.² The program was enjoined by the Denver District Court, followed by DCSD and the Institute for Justice filing appeals of the August 12, 2011 ruling with the Colorado Court of Appeals. The initial decision was overturned and the case was remanded back to the district court. Plaintiffs formally petitioned the Colorado Supreme Court in 2013 to review the Appeals Court ruling. The Colorado Supreme Court heard oral arguments on December 10, 2014.³ In a 3-1-3 decision, the Colorado Supreme Court ruled the program unconstitutional on June 29, 2015.⁴ On September 2, 2015, DCSD filed a request for extension to the U.S. Supreme Court to review the Colorado Supreme Court's decision. The Institute for Justice also filed as counsel for the request for extension. The State of Colorado will also join DCSD's effort by filing their own petition to the U.S. Supreme Court, and other states are likely to consider similar action.⁵

This year, legislators considered a proposal for an education savings account (ESA) program, the newest form of private school choice. An ESA allows parents to withdraw their children from public district or charter schools and receive a deposit of public funds into government-authorized savings accounts with restricted, but multiple, uses. Those funds can cover private school tuition and fees, online learning programs, private tutoring, special needs therapies, community college costs, and other higher education expenses.⁶

Colorado's Department of Education (CDE) provides useful links for those interested in private schools and provides some historic pupil membership data. However, CDE does not regularly update their listing of private schools and does not disseminate capacity data, so there is not a comprehensive state-level resource for data on the supply of private schools or "open" seats available to students. For more than 20 years, the USDOE has conducted its own biennial survey of private schools across the country. Additionally, in 2014-15 the Friedman Foundation conducted its own survey of Colorado private schools. Our report synthesizes information collected by both surveys, starting with a short overview of the data sources followed by the key findings from the surveys.

Each survey offers key profile and demographic characteristics of Colorado's private schools and should aid future policy decisions and any addition to Colorado's private school choice environment.

Survey Methodology and Data Sources

Friedman Foundation. From December 15, 2014, to March 9, 2015, the Friedman Foundation administered a first-of-its-kind survey of Colorado's private K-12 schools. The purpose of that assessment was seven-fold: (1) forecast a count of currently available seats and

capacities to enroll additional students, (2) measure the potential interest in various private school choice programs, (3) determine the rules and regulations that concern schools the most, (4) estimate the average and median private school tuition, (5) document how many schools provide tuition assistance, (6) determine the current testing programs, if any, in effect for those schools, and (7) document how many schools serve students with special needs.

According to the CDE, there were 210 schools serving 40,833 K–12 students in the fall of 2014.¹² The Friedman Foundation survey received responses from 163 private schools operating in Colorado serving at least 27,735 K–12 students.¹³ Based on the CDE's total number of Colorado private school students, we estimate this represents more than two-thirds (68 percent) of the state's private school population; based on the CDE's total number of Colorado K–12 private schools, we estimate this represents more than three-quarters (78 percent) of the state's private schools. There were 281 private schools on the survey contact list that met at least two conditions:

- (1) the school had a working email address or phone number; and
- (2) the school had at least one grade level other than prekindergarten or kindergarten.

Therefore, the Friedman Foundation survey had a 58 percent school-level response rate for enrollment and capacity and equal or lower response rates for the other data points. Complete responses were received from 137 private schools, which equates to a 49 percent complete response rate.¹⁴

In order to minimize coverage bias, we took the following steps:

- compiled private school email list from association membership searches and Private School Review and added schools from PSS,
- called schools to collect missing email addresses,

- contacted all 281 schools at least three times directing them to the SurveyMonkey link containing the survey,
- obtained the endorsement of five school associations and one accrediting organization,
 - o five of these entities sent e-mails to their member schools encouraging participation;
- verified school email addresses through school websites, where possible, and
- called remaining non-respondents to ensure email was received and to further encourage participation.

The Friedman Foundation's survey sample should provide a meaningful representation of the state's private school sector.

U.S. Department of Education. The federal government has conducted biennial surveys of private schools in each state for more than two decades. USDOE's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) started collecting data every other school year to generate information on the number of private schools, students, and teachers and to build a list of private schools starting with the 1989–90 school year through its Private School Universe Survey (PSS).⁷ The most recent survey—with data publicly available—was conducted in the 2013–14 school year.⁸

Each year the USDOE has asked for information about certain school qualities, such as address and primary contact information, school district and county of residence, grade span, number of teachers, number of students, website, and any school association membership. According to the USDOE's most recent survey report, there are 414 private schools in Colorado serving 45,697 students overall.⁹ Of those, the USDOE received survey responses from 334 schools serving 35,466 K–12 and ungraded students.¹⁰ However, those numbers include 109 kindergarten-terminal (PK–K or K only) schools serving 1,696 kindergarteners and

ungraded students.¹¹ Excluding kindergarten-terminal schools, the USDOE received survey responses from 225 schools serving 33,770 K–12 and ungraded students. Therefore, excluding kindergarten-terminal schools, the USDOE had a 74 percent response rate. Appendix C shows what some of the data look like for kindergarten-terminal schools.

PART I

Friedman Foundation Survey (2014–15)

Do Colorado’s private schools have available seats for new students?

Of the schools taking part in the Friedman Foundation survey, we cautiously estimate about 9,000 open seats—across all grades—are available in the state’s private school choice sector. Note that this is an estimate provided directly by the 163 private schools in this survey. The projected estimate for Colorado’s total private school sector is closer to 15,000 open seats for K–12 students.

Open Seats in Respondent Private Schools (2014–15)

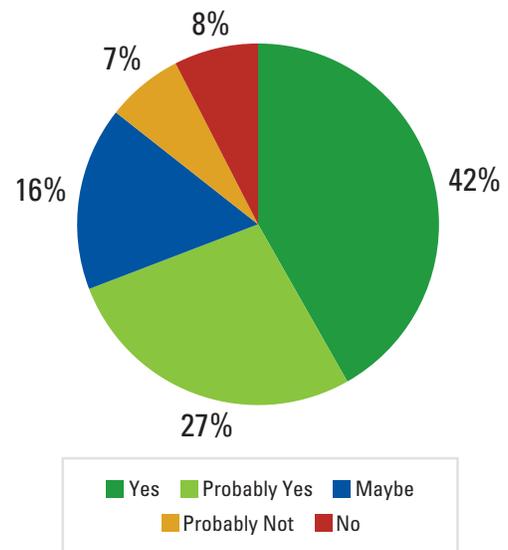
Private School Grade Level	Number of Open Seats
TOTAL	9,039
Kindergarten	784
Elementary School	3,390
Middle School	2,344
High School	2,301
Ungraded	220

number of schools responding = 163; item response rate = 58%

If enacted, would schools participate in an education savings account (ESA) program?

When asked if they would participate in an ESA program, more than two-thirds of responding private schools (69 percent; 101 of 146 schools) said “yes” or “probably yes.” Another 16 percent of schools said “maybe”; in other words, they would consider participation. Approximately one out of 15 (7 percent) schools said they would probably not participate. Only 11 schools (8 percent) said “no” when asked if they would participate. In the comments section, some of the schools that said “maybe” indicated their participation would depend on their ability to pursue their educational goals as they see fit.¹⁵

Private School Responses to Potential ESA Program Participation

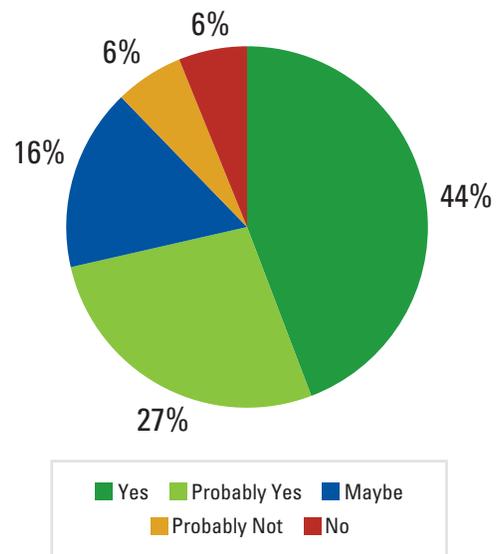


number of schools responding = 146; item response rate = 52%

If enacted, would schools participate in a tax-credit scholarship program?

When asked if they would participate in a tax-credit scholarship (TCS) program, more than seven out of ten responding private schools (71 percent; 105 of 147 schools) said “yes” or “probably yes.” Another 16 percent of schools said “maybe”; in other words, they would consider participation. Approximately one out of 15 (7 percent) schools said they would probably not participate. Only 11 schools (8 percent) said “no” when asked if they would participate. In the comments section, some of the schools that said “maybe” indicated their participation would depend on the regulations required.

Private School Responses to Potential TCS Program Participation

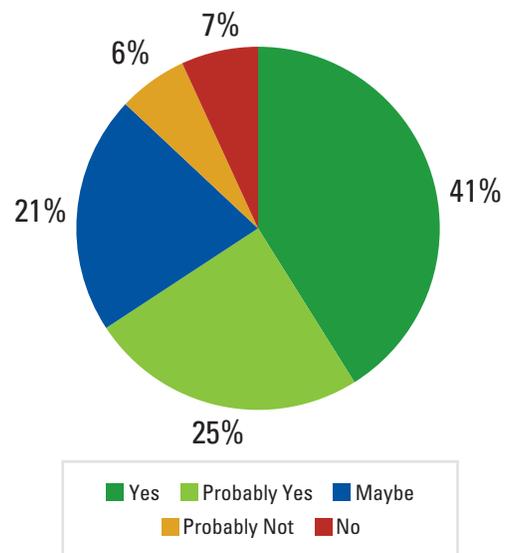


number of schools responding = 147; item response rate = 52%

If enacted, would schools participate in a voucher program?

When asked if they would participate in a voucher program similar to the one in Douglas County, nearly two-thirds of responding private schools (66 percent; 96 of 146 schools) said “yes” or “probably yes.” More than one out of five (21 percent) schools said “maybe”; in other words, they would consider participation. Approximately 6 percent of schools said they would probably not participate. Only 7 percent said “no” when asked if they would participate.

Private School Responses to Potential Voucher Program Participation



number of schools responding = 146; item response rate = 52%

Which private school choice program rules and regulations would concern schools most?

More than eight out of 10 schools (85 percent; 139 of 163 schools) that responded to our survey shared their concerns about potential rules and regulations from state government for all categories listed. On average, respondent schools were most concerned with rules pertaining to:

- setting curriculum and instruction,
- school admissions and enrollment guidelines, and
- testing and accountability.

Nearly half of the schools (47 percent) that responded to all parts of that question said they would have “very high” concerns with regulations concerning curriculum and instruction. In the comments section, most schools expressed apprehension with how a school choice program might affect their teaching of religion.

Number of Private Schools with Somewhat High or Very High Concern for Specific Rules and Regulations

Rule/Regulation	Number of Private Schools
Curriculum and Instruction	98
Testing and Accountability	76
School Admissions and Enrollment Guidelines	75
Accommodations for Students with Special Needs	67
Paperwork and Reporting	62
Tuition and Fees	60
Teacher/Staff Certification and Licensure	59
Financial Reporting and Disclosure	51
School Eligibility for Program (e.g. register with state)	43
Building Safety and Security	39
Student Eligibility for Program (e.g. income limit)	36

number of schools responding = 139; item response rate = 49%

Average Concern Level for Specific Rules and Regulations (1 = Very Low, 5 = Very High)

Rule/Regulation	Average Concern Level
Curriculum and Instruction	4.0
School Admissions and Enrollment Guidelines	3.6
Testing and Accountability	3.6
Accommodations for Students with Special Needs	3.5
Tuition and Fees	3.4
Paperwork and Reporting	3.3
Financial Reporting and Disclosure	3.1
Teacher/Staff Certification and Licensure	3.1
School Eligibility for Program (e.g. register with state)	3.0
Building Safety and Security	2.9
Student Eligibility for Program (e.g. income limit)	2.9

number of schools responding = 139; item response rate = 49%

Which geographic areas have the most open seats in Colorado’s private schools?

Of the private schools that responded to the Friedman Foundation survey, Denver City-County had the most open K–12 private school seats during the 2014–15 school year.

- Lakewood had a little more than half (51 percent) the number of open seats Denver had. Loveland and Colorado Springs had approximately one-third (35 percent and 29 percent, respectively) the number of open seats Denver had.
- Jefferson County had nearly nine-tenths the number of open seats (87 percent) Denver County had. Douglas County and Boulder County had approximately half the number of open seats Denver County had (51 percent and 45 percent, respectively).

Top 10 Colorado Cities Having Largest Number of Open Seats in Respondent Private Schools (2014–15)

City	Number of Open Seats
Denver	1,700
Lakewood	873
Loveland	589
Colorado Springs	501
Highlands Ranch	396
Parker	353
Longmont	343
Littleton	328
Aurora	306
Grand Junction	292

number of schools responding = 163; item response rate = 58%

Top 10 Colorado Counties Having Largest Number of Open Seats in Respondent Private Schools (2014–15)

County	Number of Open Seats
Denver	1,700
Jefferson	1,484
Douglas	859
Arapahoe	759
Larimer	732
Boulder	726
El Paso	681
Adams	406
Mesa	314
Routt	226

number of schools responding = 163; item response rate = 58%

Which geographic areas have the most respondent private schools?

Nearly one-third (32 percent) of the Colorado private schools that responded to the Friedman Foundation survey are located in Denver, Aurora, or Colorado Springs (52 of 163 schools).

More than two out of five (41 percent) of the state’s respondent private schools are located in Denver, Arapahoe, or Jefferson counties (67 of 163 schools).

Top 11 Colorado Cities Having Largest Number of Respondent Private Schools (2014–15)

City	Number of Private Schools
Denver	31
Aurora	11
Colorado Springs	10
Boulder	8
Longmont	6
Loveland	6
Lakewood	5
Littleton	5
Englewood	5
Grand Junction	4
Pueblo	4

number of schools responding = 163; item response rate = 58%

Top 11 Colorado Counties Having Largest Number of Respondent Private Schools (2014–15)

County	Number of Private Schools
Denver	31
Arapahoe	20
Jefferson	16
Boulder	15
El Paso	11
Larimer	10
Adams	7
Douglas	8
Mesa	5
Eagle	4
Pueblo	4

number of schools responding = 163; item response rate = 58%

What is the cost of tuition among private schools?

Half of private schools for which tuition data are available charge \$5,225 or less for elementary and middle school grades. Half of private schools for which tuition data are available charge less than \$7,600 for high school grades.

It appears there are some especially expensive schools at all levels that create the gaps between “average” and “median” private school tuition rates seen in the first accompanying table. The minimum tuition charged at any level is \$150 and the maximum tuition charged at any level is \$69,000, although there are outliers because some schools mainly serve students with special needs.

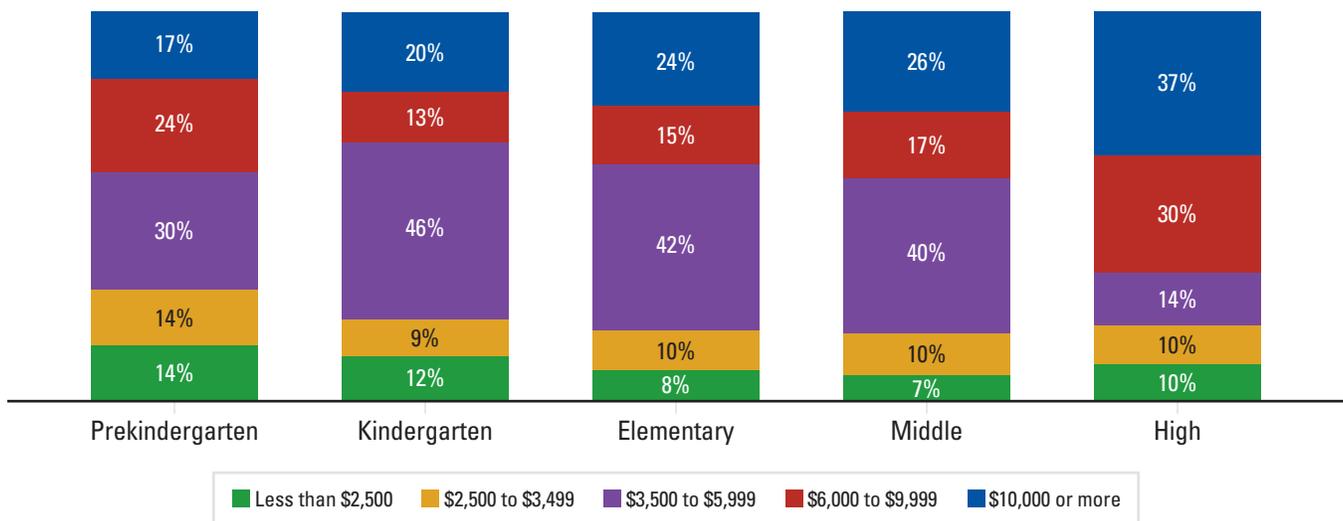
Nearly one-third (30 percent) of Colorado private schools charge \$3,500 to \$5,999 for prekindergarten, while more than two out of five charge the same range for kindergarten, elementary school grades, and middle school grades (46 percent, 42 percent, and 40 percent, respectively). More than one-third (37 percent) of Colorado private schools charge \$10,000 or more for high school grades.¹⁶

Tuition Amounts for Colorado Private Schools (2014–15)

Grade(s)	Average Tuition	Median Tuition
OVERALL	\$8,111	\$5,225
Prekindergarten	\$6,729	\$5,000
Kindergarten	\$7,087	\$4,800
Elementary School	\$7,821	\$5,048
Middle School	\$8,373	\$5,300
High School	\$11,656	\$7,575

number of schools responding = 155; item response rate = 55%

Colorado Private School Tuition Ranges by Grade Level (2014–15)



number of schools responding = 155; item response rate = 55%

What do private schools charge in fees?

Half of schools for which fee data is available charge \$325 or less, and the Colorado private schools for which fee data is available charge \$40 to \$3,100 in total fees. These fees are in addition to the tuition that schools charge students. The fee category in which Colorado schools charge the most, on average, is Transportation. The fee category in which Colorado's private schools charge the most, overall, is "Other." Fees under the "other" category include those for athletics, lab materials, PTO, field trips and experiential travel, and general student activity fees.

Fee Amounts for Colorado Private Schools (2014–15)

Fee Category	Average Fee	Median Fee
TOTAL	\$416	\$325
Registration/Application	\$192	\$150
Textbooks	\$263	\$205
Technology	\$143	\$100
Transportation	\$552	\$525
Uniforms	\$88	\$75
Other	\$295	\$150

number of schools responding = 134; item response rate = 48%

What proportion of Colorado private schools offers some form of financial assistance, and how much do they offer?

More than eight out of 10 of the state’s private schools for which tuition data are available (86 percent) provide some form of tuition assistance. Half of those schools provide financial assistance to at least one-quarter (25 percent) of their students, and half of those schools provide \$2,000 or more in financial assistance.

Tuition Assistance Provided by Colorado Private Schools (2014–15)

	Average	Median
Percentage of Students Receiving Financial Assistance (Including Discounts)	34%	25%
Tuition Assistance Per Student	\$3,773	\$2,000

number of schools responding = 145; item response rate = 52%

What proportion of Colorado private school students have special needs?

For the schools that responded to this question, it is estimated nearly one-fifth of the students attending Colorado private schools (17 percent) had special needs in 2014–15, on average.¹⁷ Comparatively, approximately one-tenth (10 percent) of Colorado public school students had special needs in 2012–13.¹⁸

However, it is important to note that four of the respondent schools serve only students with special needs, so the median proportion of students (5 percent) may be more important for comparisons. A median of that data point could not be found for Colorado public schools.

Colorado Private Schools' Percentage of Students with Special Needs (2014–15)

Student Profile	Average Percent of Private School's Students	Median Percent of Private School's Students
With Special Needs	17%	5%
Without Special Needs	83%	95%

number of schools responding = 96; item response rate = 34%

What proportion of the state's private schools enrolls students with special needs?

Of those schools that responded to the previous question, more than seven out of ten (73 percent; 104 of 143 schools) enrolled at least one student with special needs in 2014–15.

Colorado Private Schools Enrolling Students with Special Needs (2014–15)

Enrolled Student(s) with Special Needs	Number of Private Schools	Percent of State's Private Schools
Yes	104	73%
No	39	27%

number of schools responding = 143; item response rate = 51%

Do respondent schools test their students annually?

More than four out of five (84 percent) Colorado private schools require their students to take a nationally norm-referenced test or the state assessment to measure student academic performance. Of those schools, more than half (54 percent) reported they administer the test to “most” grade levels. Less than one out of 10 schools responding to this question said they require the state’s criterion-referenced assessment (8 percent; 10 of 120 schools). Seven of the schools that give the state assessment also give at least one nationally norm-referenced assessment.¹⁹

More than one-third (38 percent) of the schools that require a standardized test administer the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS). Nearly one-fifth (18 percent) of Colorado’s testing schools require the TerraNova. Approximately one out of ten Colorado private schools that require a standardized test administer the ACT or Stanford 10 (10 percent and 9 percent, respectively).

Grade Levels Tested in Colorado Private Schools (2014–15)

Grades Tested	Number of Testing Schools	Percentage of State's Private Schools
TOTAL	121	84%
All	44	31%
Most	65	45%
Few	10	7%

number of schools responding = 119; item response rate = 42%

Most Common Nationally Norm-Referenced Standardized Tests Used by Colorado Private Schools (2014–15)

Standardized Test	Number of Testing Schools	Percentage of State's Testing Schools
ITBS	46	38%
TerraNova	22	18%
ACT	12	10%
Stanford 10	11	9%
State Assessment	10	8%
PSAT	7	6%
SAT	7	6%
ACT Aspire	6	5%

number of schools responding = 103; item response rate = 37%

PART II

U.S. Department of Education:
PSS Datasets (1989–1990 to 2013–14)

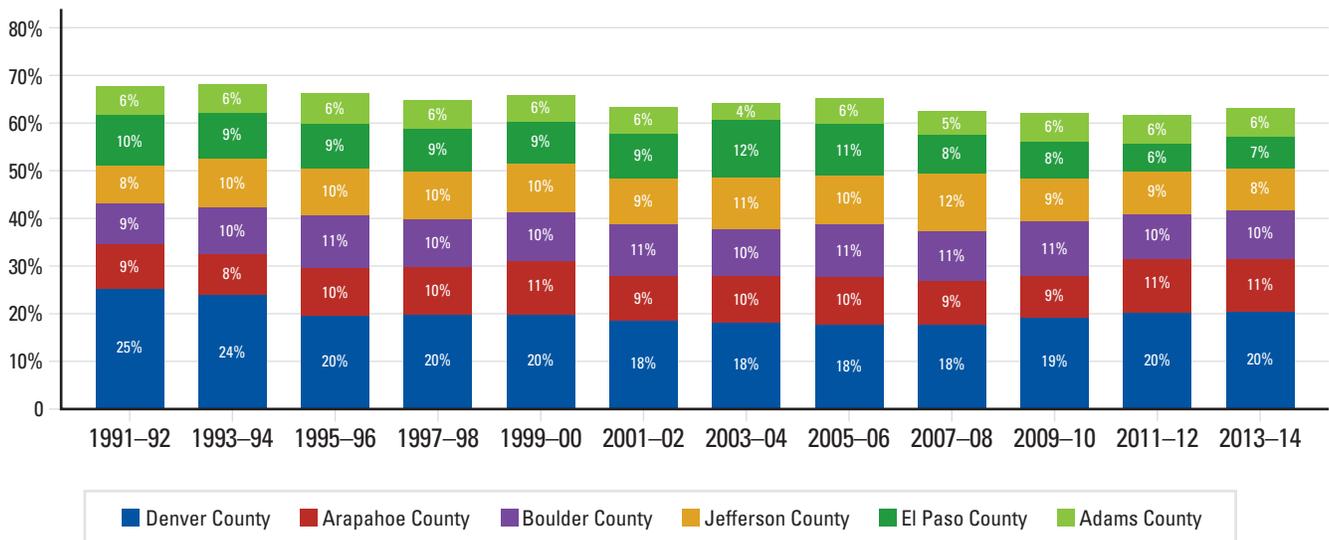
Which geographic areas have the most private schools?

Generally speaking, the following three areas represent the cradles of private schools spread out across Colorado: Denver County has nearly one out of five (19 percent) of the state’s private schools (46 of 225 schools); Arapahoe County has approximately 10 percent (25 of 225 schools); and Boulder County has approximately 9 percent (23 of 225 schools). However, Denver County’s proportion of the state’s private schools has decreased over time.²⁰

Top 10 Colorado Counties Having Largest Number of Private Schools (2013–14)

County	Number of Private Schools	Number of Private School Students
Denver	46	8,953
Arapahoe	25	5,197
Boulder	23	2,593
Jefferson	19	3,101
El Paso	15	2,496
Adams	14	1,726
Douglas	12	2,983
Larimer	11	1,349
Mesa	8	701
La Plata	6	384

Proportion of Colorado Private Schools by County (1991–92 to 2013–14)



What types of communities have the most private schools?

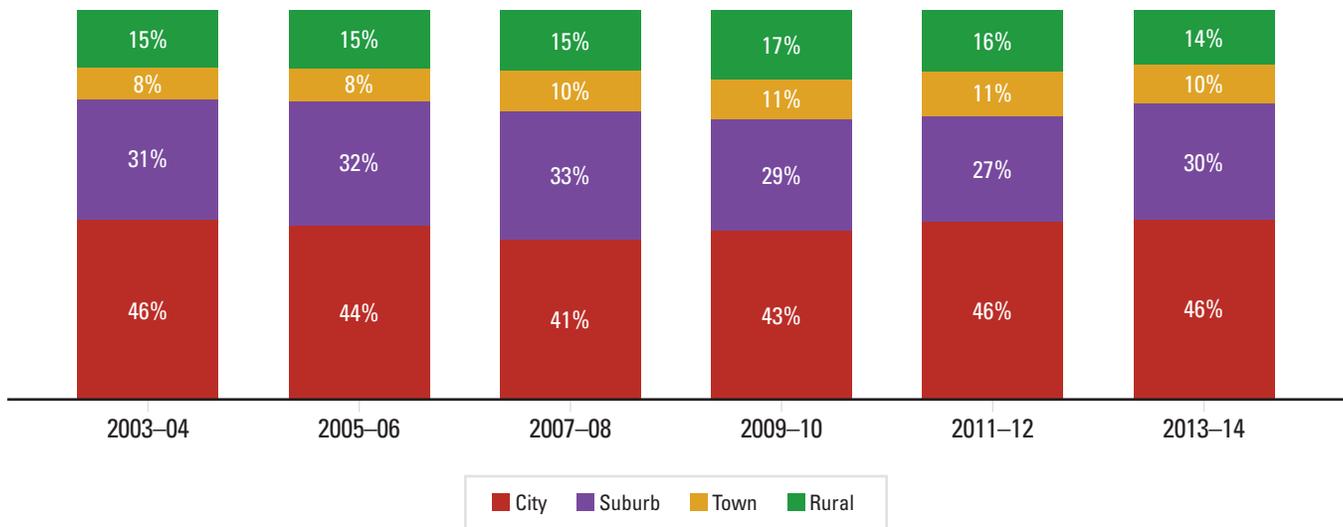
Nearly half (46 percent) of Colorado’s private schools are in a city (104 of 225 schools) and nearly one out of three (30 percent) are in a suburban area (67 of 225 schools). However, 51 percent of Colorado’s private school *students* attend school in a city, compared with 36 percent in suburban areas, 4 percent in towns, and 8 percent in rural areas.

The distribution of Colorado’s private schools by community type has changed little over time. However, there has been a slight increase in the share of schools in towns and a small drop in the share of schools in suburban areas.

Colorado Private Schools by Community Type (2013–14)

Community Type	Number of Private Schools	Percent of State's Private Schools
City	104	46%
Suburb	67	30%
Town	23	10%
Rural	31	14%

Proportion of Colorado Private Schools by Community Type (2003–04 to 2013–14)



Which cities have the most private schools?

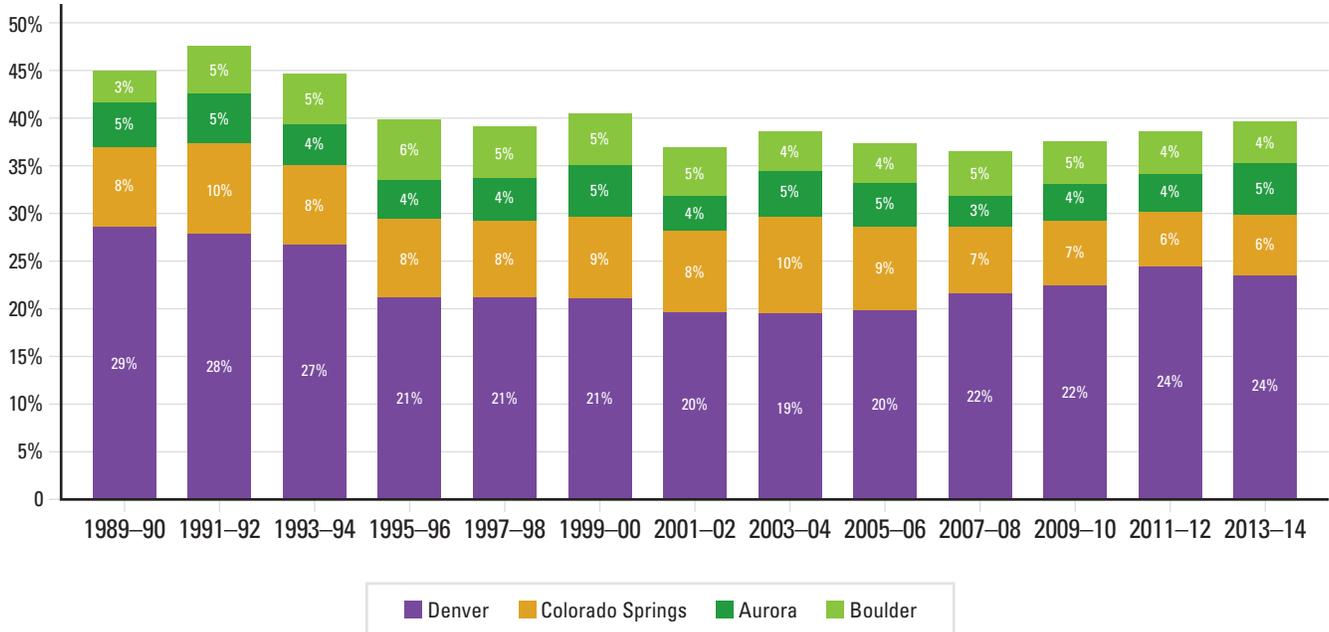
More than one-third (35 percent) of the state’s private schools are located in Denver, Colorado Springs, or Aurora (79 of 225 schools).²¹

The concentration of the schools in Denver and Colorado Springs has decreased. The percentages of the state’s private schools in Aurora and Boulder have fluctuated slightly over time but have remained fairly consistent overall. Those four areas have contained anywhere from slightly more than one-third (36 percent in 2007–08) to nearly one-half (47 percent in 1991–92) of the state’s private schools over time.²²

Top 10 Colorado Cities Having Largest Number of Private Schools (2013–14)

City	Number of Private Schools	Number of Private School Students
Denver	53	9,667
Colorado Springs	14	2,394
Aurora	12	2,721
Boulder	10	954
Grand Junction	7	763
Littleton	7	521
Englewood	6	1,301
Westminster	6	1,218
Longmont	6	523
Fort Collins	6	490

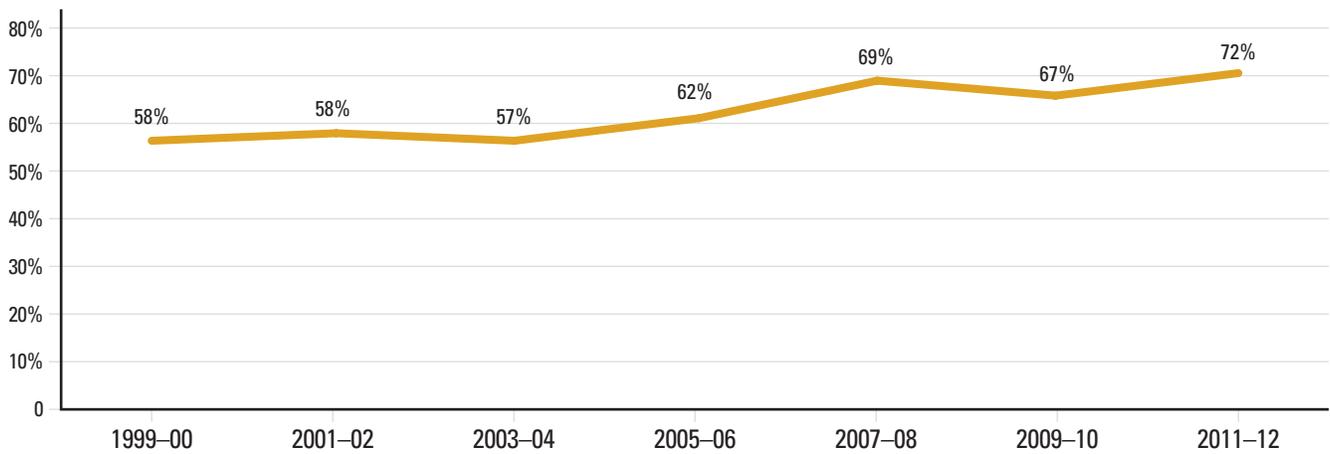
Proportion of Colorado Private Schools by City (1989–90 to 2013–14)



How many Colorado private school graduates went to four-year colleges?

More than seven of 10 (72 percent) private school students who graduated with a diploma in 2010–11 continued their education at a four-year college. This is seven percentage points higher than the national average for private school graduates (65 percent). Although there has been some fluctuation, the percentage of seniors graduating Colorado private schools with a diploma and going on to a four-year college has increased overall since 1999–00.

Proportion of Colorado Private School Graduates Enrolling in a Four-Year College (1999–00 to 2011–12)

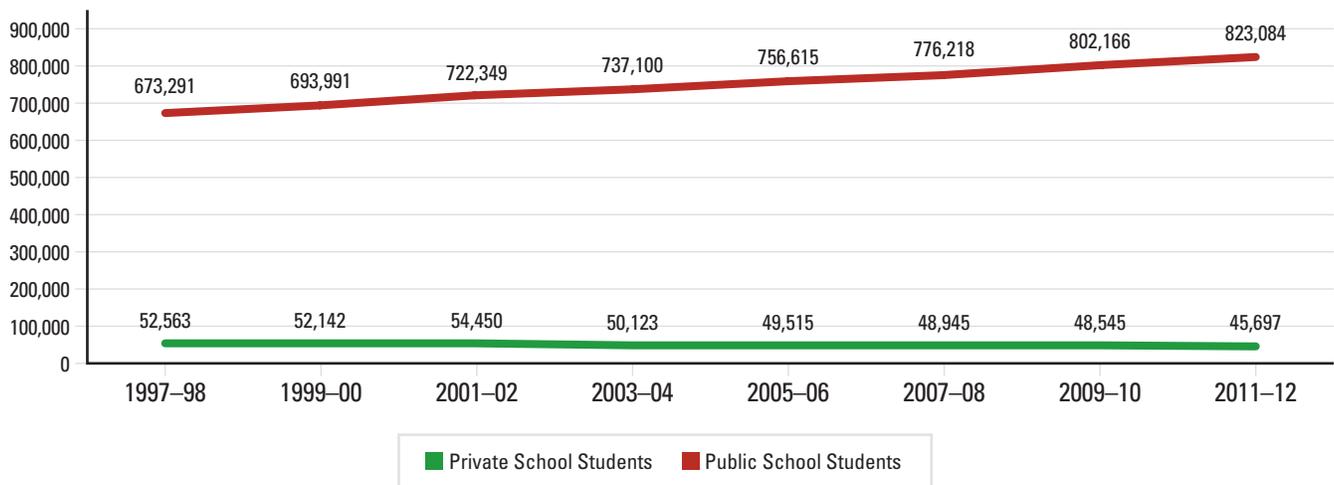


How many of Colorado's students attend private school?

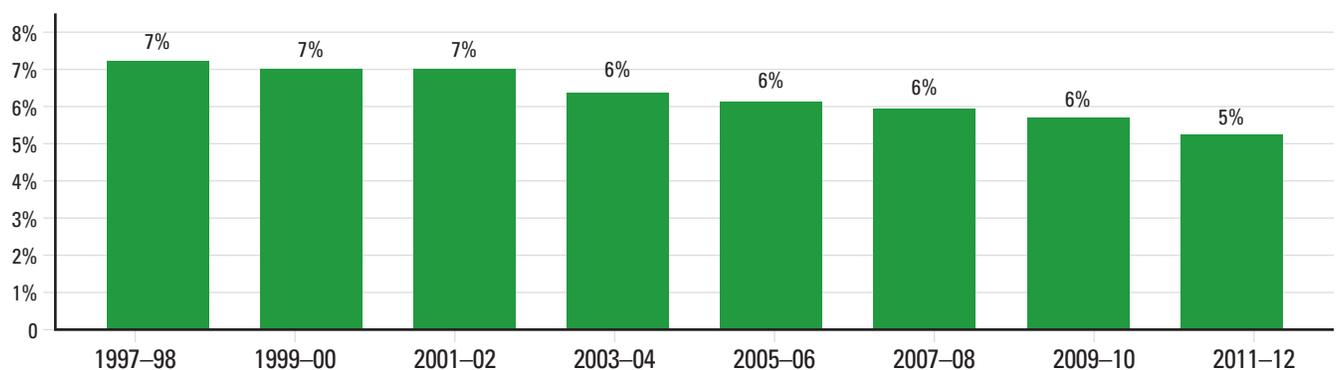
According to the most recent data currently available, more than 45,000 students attend private school in Colorado. This is a decrease of approximately 16 percent from the previous decade. By contrast, the number of students attending public school in Colorado has increased approximately 14 percent across the same time periods.²³

Approximately one out of 20 (5 percent) Colorado students attend private school. Over the course of nearly 15 years, this proportion shrank by 2 percentage points due to an increase of 149,793 public school students and a decrease of 6,866 private school students.²⁴

Number of K-12 Students in Colorado (1997-98 to 2011-12)



Proportion of Colorado Students Attending Private School (1997-98 to 2011-12)

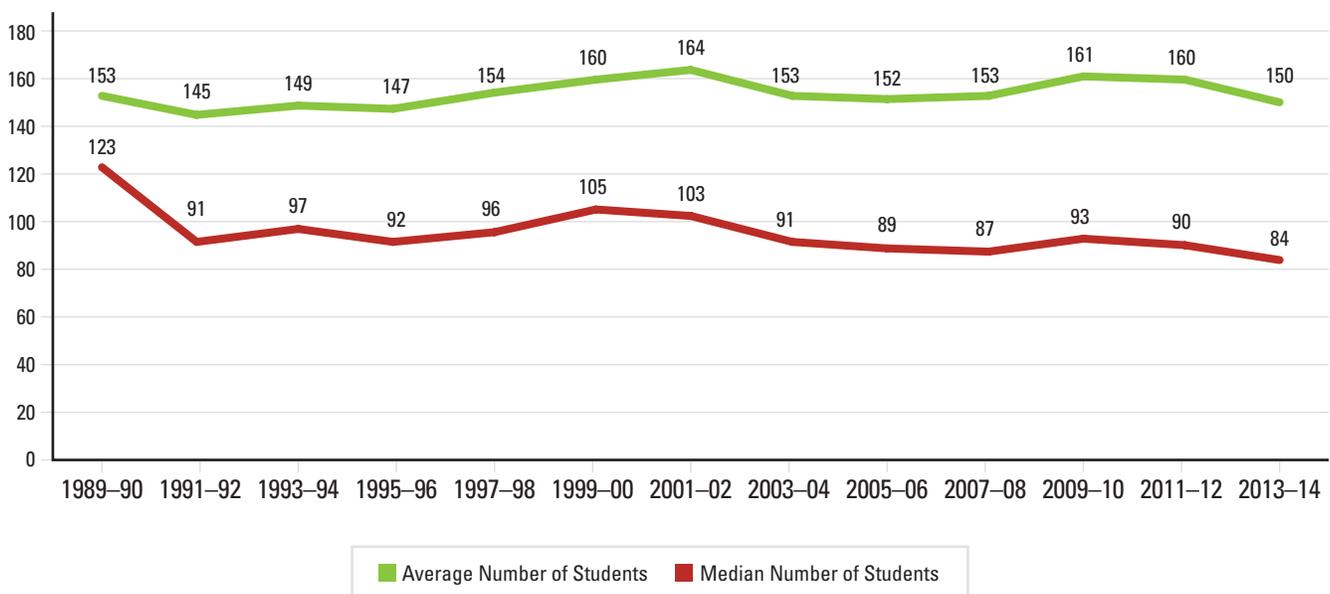


What is the state’s average and median private school size (enrollment)?

The average private school size in Colorado is 150 K–12 students, and the median private school size is 84 K–12 students (half of all private schools are above/below that enrollment number). The reason the median is so much lower than the average is most likely a result of there being 44 schools with less than 30 K–12 students.

After a decline in the state’s average private school size in the early 1990s, it increased until eventually reaching a high of 164 in 2001–02. The state’s median private school size experienced a similar fluctuation. Speculative reasons for the change could be anything from a greater number of schools with fewer than 30 K–12 students responding in some years more than others to the merging of some schools with separate schooling levels (K–6 and 7–12).

Enrollments of Colorado Private Schools (1989–90 to 2013–14)

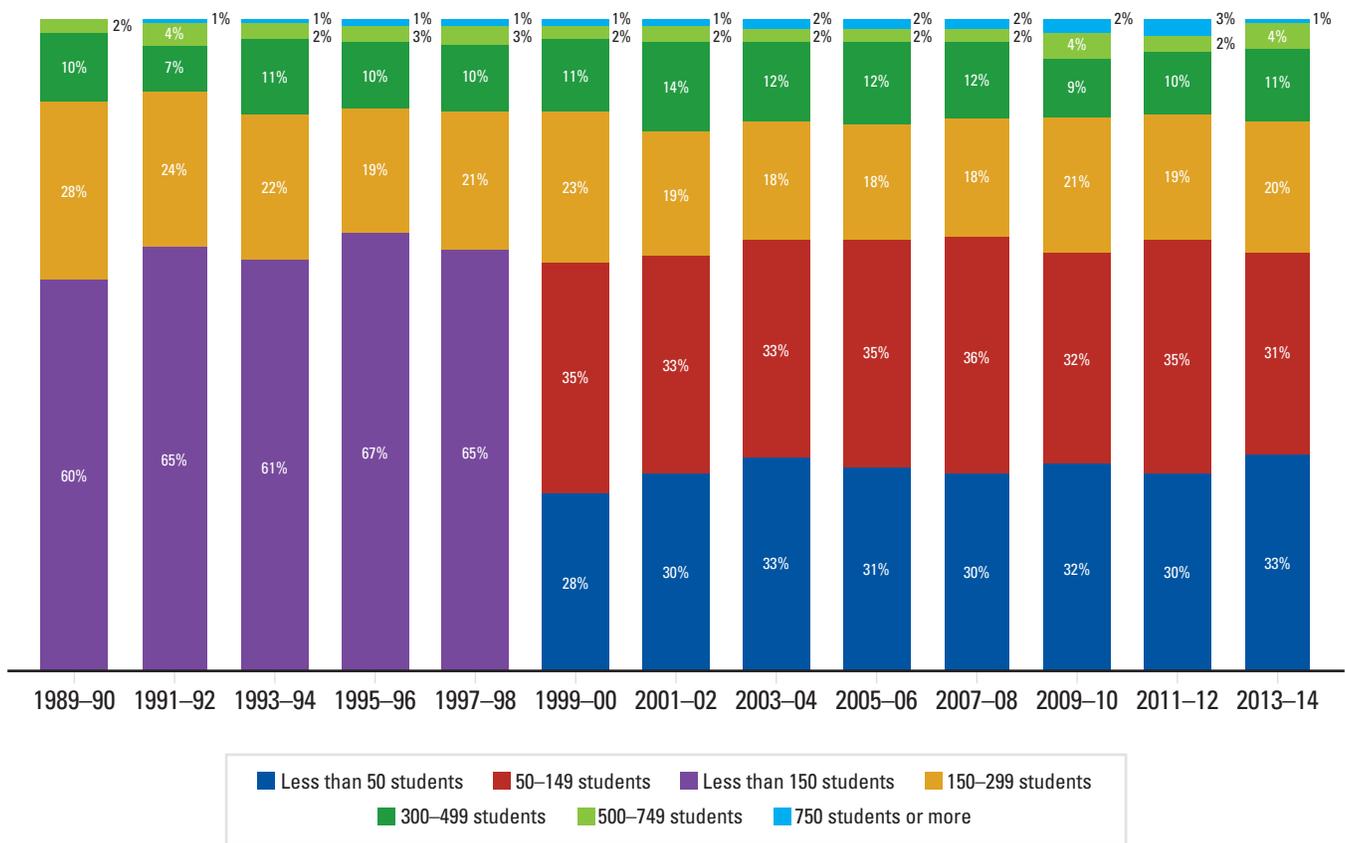


What are the enrollment sizes of the state's private schools?

Approximately one-third (33 percent) of private schools enroll less than 50 students (75 of 225 schools). When including the schools enrolling 50 to 149 students, nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of Colorado private schools enroll less than 150 students (144 of 225 schools).

The proportion of schools enrolling less than 150 students has fluctuated over time but has remained fairly consistent overall. Although there has been some fluctuation, the proportion of schools enrolling 150 to 299 students has decreased over time. The proportion of schools in the largest enrollment category (750 students or more) has increased over time.

Proportion of Colorado Private Schools by Enrollment Size (1989–90 to 2013–14)



What are the most common grade spans for Colorado’s private schools?

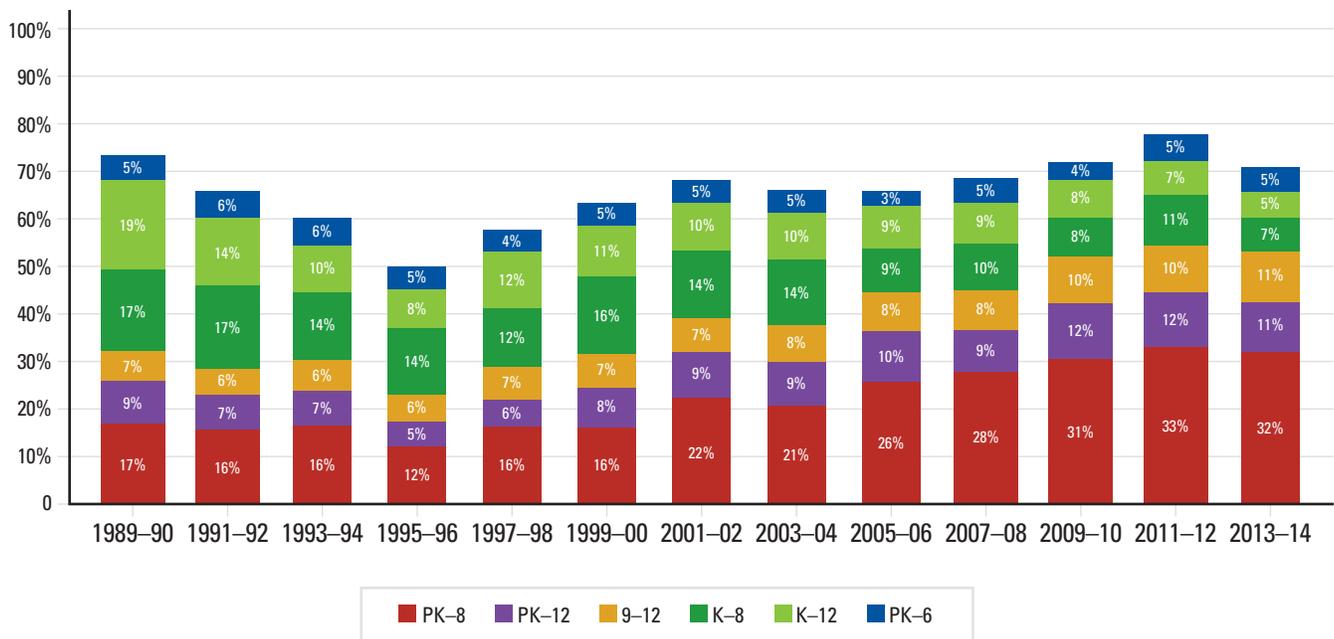
Nearly one-third (32 percent) of private schools (72 of 225 schools) have the grade span of prekindergarten through eighth grade (PK–8). The proportion for that span is significantly higher than the proportion of private schools in the state that span PK–12, 9–12, K–8, PK–6, and K–12 (11 percent, 11 percent, 7 percent, 5 percent, and 5 percent, respectively). Colorado’s private schools offer at least 33 different grade spans.

Although schools with the grade span of PK–8 account for nearly one out of three of the private schools in Colorado (32 percent), they used to represent fewer than one out of eight (12 percent). This may be explained by schools serving grades K–8 adding prekindergarten, since the percent of schools with this grade span used to be 17 percent (1989–90; 1991–92) but decreased to 7 percent (2013–14).

10 Most Common Grade Spans of Colorado Private Schools (2013–14)

Grade Span	Number of Private Schools	Percent of State's Private Schools
PK–8	72	32%
PK–12	24	11%
9–12	24	11%
K–8	16	7%
PK–6	12	5%
K–12	12	5%
PK–5	6	3%
1–8	6	3%
6–12	6	3%
K–11	5	2%

Most Common Grade Spans of Colorado Private Schools (1997–98 to 2013–14)



What proportion of the state's private schools also offer prekindergarten? How many schools?

An estimated 127 private schools in Colorado offer prekindergarten, representing more than half (56 percent) of the state's private schools. By comparison, 587 public schools in Colorado provide prekindergarten, representing a little more than one-third (34 percent) of the state's public schools.²⁵

The share of private schools offering PK jumped from more than one out of four (28 percent) in 1989–90 to nearly two out of five (37 percent) in 1993–94 before decreasing to one out of three (33 percent) in 1995–96 then increasing to what it is today. This suggests an increase in demand of PK over time, which could be influenced by a variety of factors.

The Colorado state legislature created the Colorado Preschool Program in 1988 to serve children with various school failure risk factors, such as eligibility for free and reduced-price lunch, language development needs, poor social skills, homelessness, and substance abuse by a parent. When the publicly-funded preschool program started, there were 1,933 slots available, and there were 20,160 slots available in 2012.²⁶ Although most of the students served by this program attend public schools, it includes private providers as well, at the discretion of a given school district.²⁷

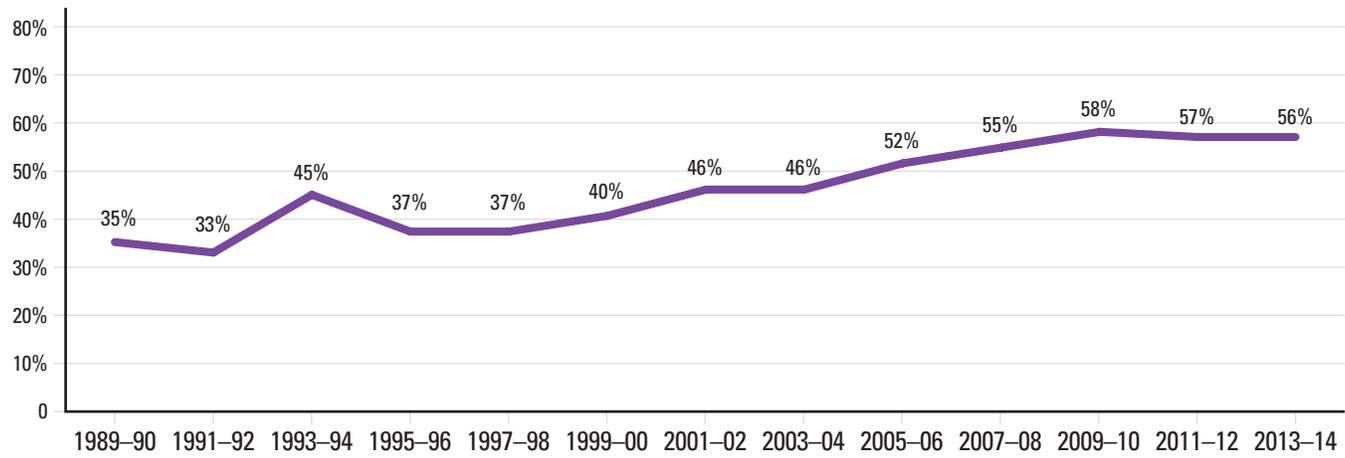
The Denver Preschool Program was approved by voters in 2006 for 10 years.²⁸ It allows any Denver family, regardless of income level to apply for tuition support for preschool. The tuition support can be used at any one of more than 250 preschool partners across the Denver area, including both preschool classrooms in public schools and qualified faith-based providers.²⁹

Continued

Colorado Schools Offering Prekindergarten

Offer PK	Number of Public Schools (2012–13)	Percent of State's Public Schools (2012–13)	Number of Private Schools (2013–14)	Percent of State's Private Schools (2013–14)
Yes	587	34%	127	56%
No	1,165	66%	98	44%

Proportion of Colorado Private Schools Offering Prekindergarten (1989–90 to 2013–14)



What are the enrollment sizes of the state's private schools?

Overall, there are slightly more female private school students in Colorado (55 percent) than there are male (45 percent). By comparison, there are slightly more male public school students in Colorado (51 percent) than there are female (49 percent).³⁰

Colorado Students by Gender (2011–12)

Gender	Number of Private School Students	Percent of State's Private School Students	Number of Public School Students	Percent of State's Public School Students
Female	24,484	55%	416,196	49%
Male	20,265	45%	437,473	51%

What is the racial makeup of the state's private schools?

Nearly three out of four Colorado private school students (74 percent) are white compared with 55 percent of Colorado's public school students who identify as white.³¹

From 2005–06 to 2013–14, the population size of Colorado's white private school students fell by 34 percent, compared with Colorado's white public school students decreasing by 1 percent and the overall size of Colorado's white citizenry increasing by 30 percent from 2006 to 2013.

Similarly, the state's number of black private school students decreased by 48 percent, compared with Colorado's black public school students decreasing by 12 percent and the overall size of Colorado's black citizenry increasing by 23 percent. Meanwhile, Hispanic private school students decreased 10 percent, while the state's population of Hispanic public school students increased 36 percent and the state's Hispanic citizen population increased 19 percent.

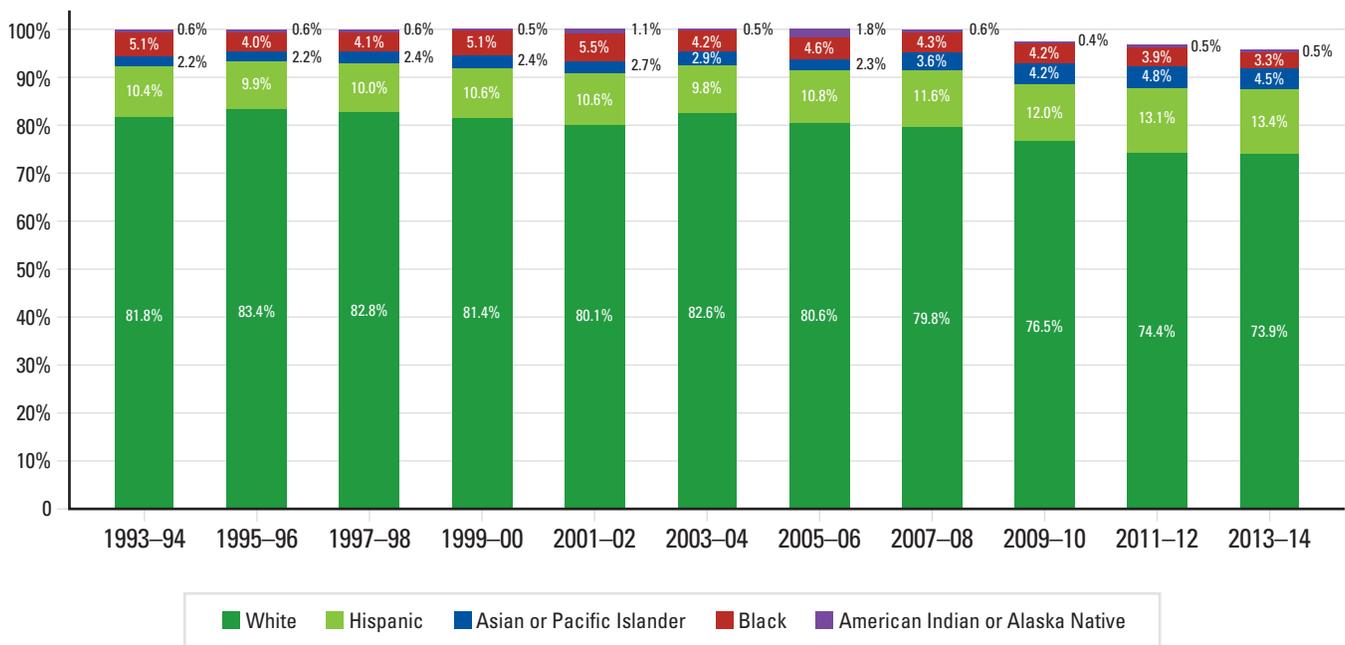
During these same timeframes, the state's population of Asian or Pacific Islander private school students increased 44 percent, while the population of similar public school students decreased 28 percent and the population of similar Colorado citizens increased 22 percent. The population of American Indian or Alaska Native private school students decreased 79 percent; the state's population of similar public school students decreased 28 percent, and the population of similar citizens in Colorado increased 49 percent.³²

Continued

Colorado Students by Race and Ethnicity (2013–14)

	Number of Private School Students	Percent of State's Private School Students	Number of Public School Students	Percent of State's Public School Students
White	24,908	73.9%	482,405	55.0%
Hispanic or Latino	4,520	13.4%	287,402	32.8%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1,519	4.5%	28,886	3.3%
Two or More	1,457	4.3%	30,625	3.5%
Black	1,108	3.3%	41,107	4.7%
American Indian/Alaska Native	176	0.5%	6,574	0.7%

Racial and Ethnic Composition of Colorado Private Schools (1993–94 to 2013–14)



How long is each year and day for students attending the state's private schools?

Students attend Colorado's private schools for approximately 7.1 hours per day for 174 days of the year, on average.

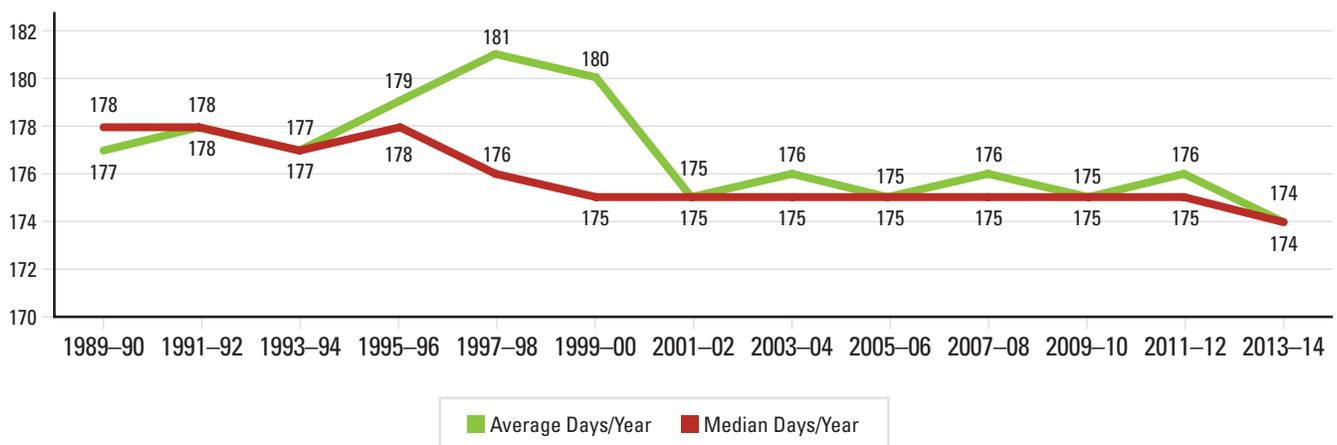
Although the median number of school days per year has remained constant after declining in the mid-1990s, the average number has somewhat fluctuated over time. This implies there may be a portion of schools with more than 175 school days per year that have adjusted the length of their school year over time; though this also could be explained by different schools responding to the survey in different years.

Since the early 1990s, private schools have gradually increased the length of their school day by a modest amount. The median number of hours per school day started at 6.7 in the early 1990s and increased to 7.0 per school day in 2009–10, which was the year before the average number of hours per school day first increased to 7.0.

Length of School Year and Day for Colorado Private Schools (2013–14)

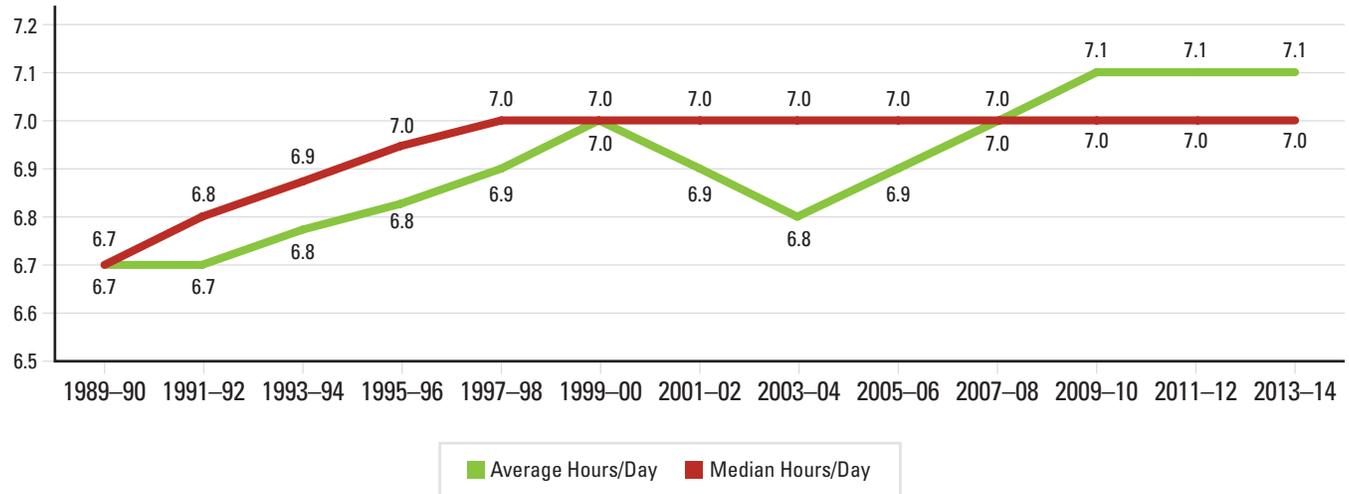
	Average	Median
Number of School Days/Year	174	174
Number of School Hours/Day	7.1	7.0

School Days Per Year in Colorado Private Schools (1989–90 to 2013–14)



Continued

School Hours Per Day in Colorado Private Schools (1989–90 to 2013–14)



Do the state's private schools offer full-day kindergarten, half-day kindergarten, or both?

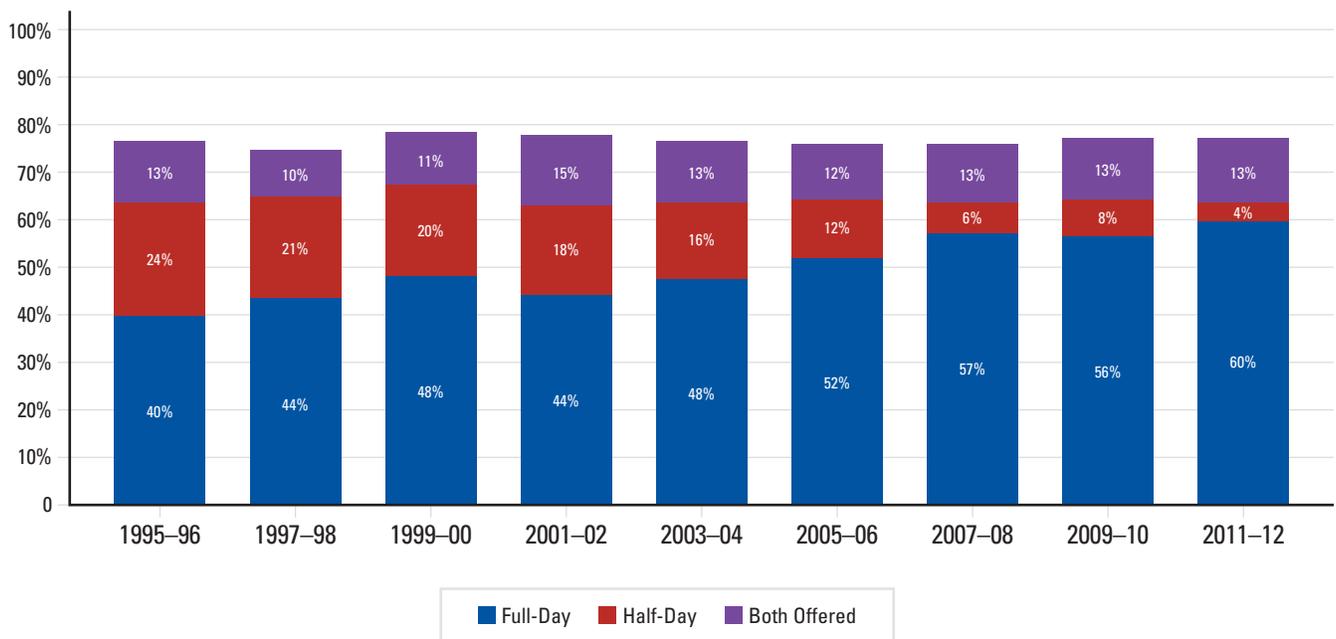
The majority (60 percent) of Colorado private schools offer only full-day kindergarten (147 of 246 schools).

While the overall proportion of Colorado private schools that offer kindergarten has remained fairly consistent, many schools have switched from offering only half-day kindergarten to offering only full-day kindergarten.

Colorado Private Schools Kindergarten (2011–12)

	Number of Private Schools	Percent of State's Private Schools
Full-Day	147	60%
Half-Day	10	4%
Both	33	13%

Colorado Private Schools Kindergarten (1995–96 to 2011–12)



What is the average Colorado private and public school class size?

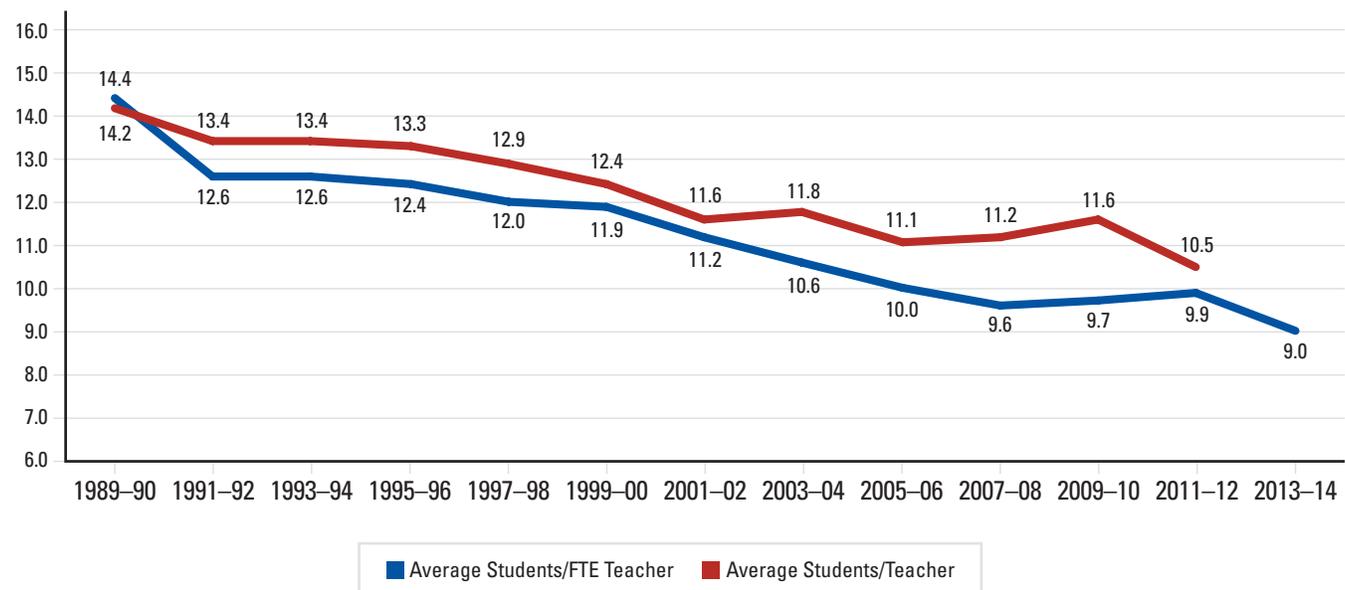
On average, there are more than 10 students per teacher (10.5:1) in Colorado’s private schools. However, when considering only full-time equivalent (FTE) teachers, this decreases to nine students per teacher (9.0:1). By comparison, there are more than 17 students per FTE teacher (17.2:1) in Colorado’s public schools.³³

Private schools have gradually increased the number of teachers per student since the early 1990s, including all teachers and their full-time equivalent. Overall, the average number of students per teacher has decreased over time (14.2:1 to 10.5:1), and so has the average number of students per FTE teacher (14.4:1 to 9.0:1).

Student-Teacher Ratios in Colorado Schools

	Average	Median
Number of Students/FTE Teacher (Public 2012–13)	17.2	17.0
Number of Students/FTE Teacher (Private 2013–14)	9.0	8.5
Number of Students/Teacher (Private 2011–12)	10.5	9.7

Student-Teacher Ratios in Colorado Private Schools (1989–90 to 2013–14)



How many schools are religious and which denominations are represented?

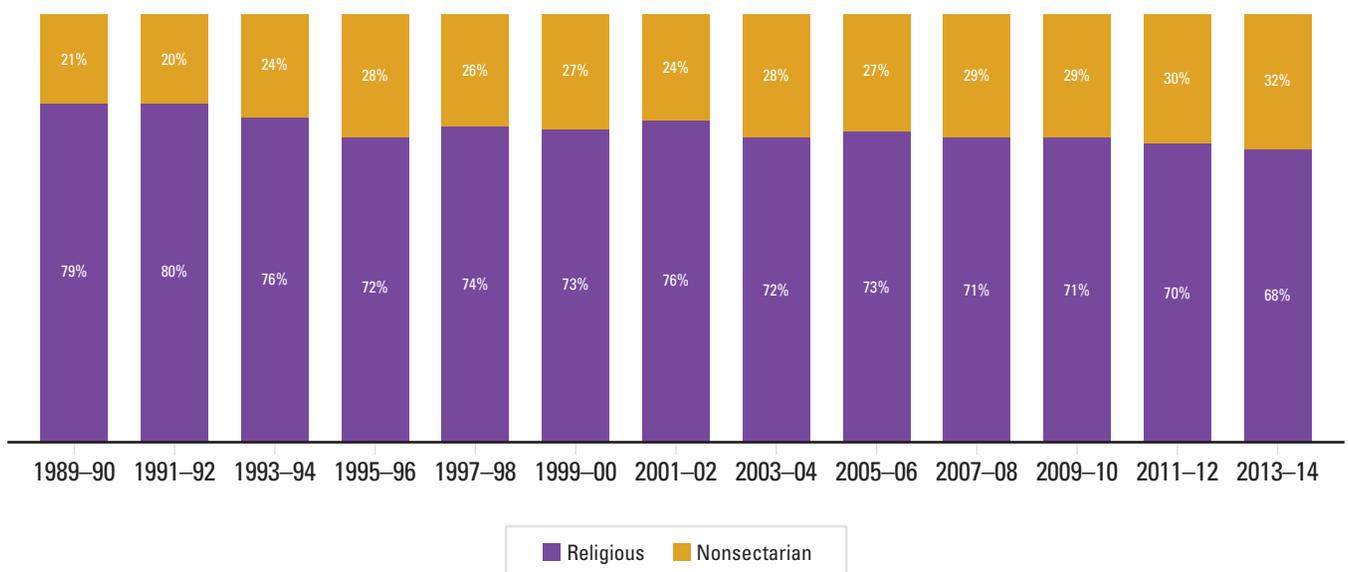
Less than seven of 10 Colorado private schools are religious in origin (68 percent; 154 of 225 schools). Colorado’s private schools have consistently been mostly religious in origin, although the population of nonsectarian schools has grown from 21 percent to 32 percent of the state’s total private school marketplace. Of those schools that are religious, most are Roman Catholic (31 percent; 47 of 225 schools).

Of the top five denominations, the percent of non-denominational Christian schools is the only one that seems to have grown (17 of 214 schools in 1989–90; 37 of 225 in 2013–14). The percent of Colorado’s private schools that self-identify as Roman Catholic has decreased from more than one out of four in 1989–90 (27 percent; 58 of 214 schools) to a little more than one out of five (21 percent; 47 of 225 schools). On average, over time, three out of five private schools (60 percent) in Colorado have belonged to one of these five denominations: Roman Catholic, Christian (no specific denomination), Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, Seventh-Day Adventist, and Baptist.

Religiosity of Colorado Private Schools (2013–14)

	Number of Private Schools	Percent of State's Private Schools
Religious	154	68%
Nonsectarian	71	32%

Religiosity of Colorado Private Schools (1989–90 to 2013–14)

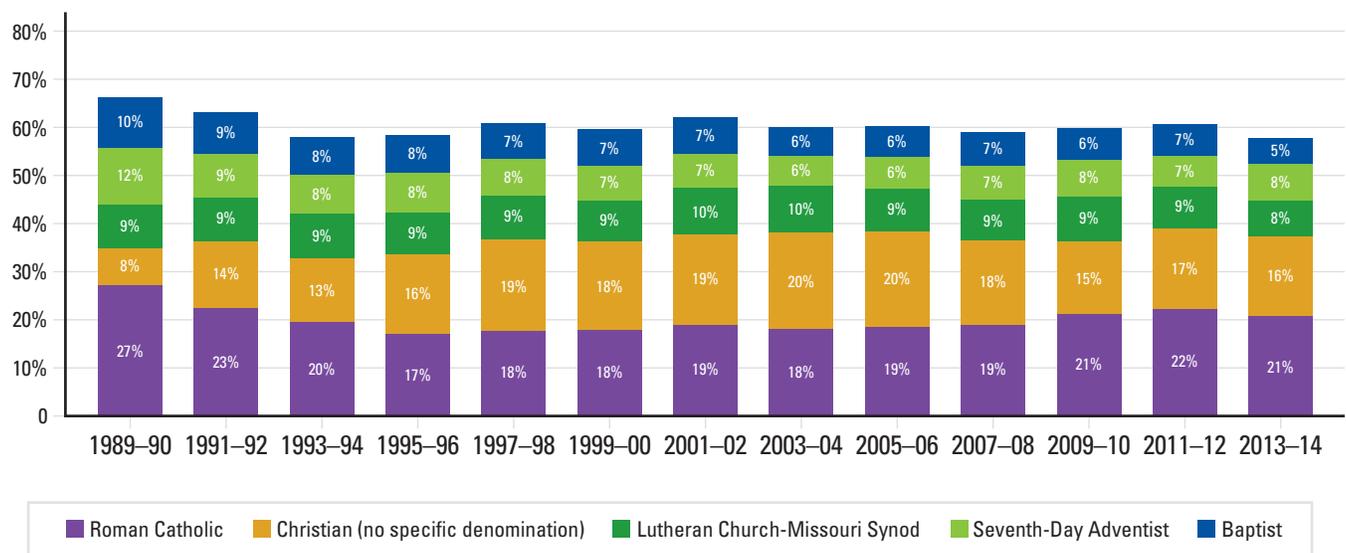


Continued

Five Most Common Denominations of Colorado Private Schools (2013–14)

Denomination	Number of Private Schools	Percent of State's Private Schools
Roman Catholic	47	21%
Christian (no specific denomination)	37	16%
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod	17	8%
Seventh-Day Adventist	17	8%
Baptist	12	5%

Most Common Denominations of Colorado Private Schools (1989–90 to 2013–14)



How many schools belong to an association, and to what associations do they belong?

More than three out of four Colorado private schools belong to at least one association (76 percent; 170 of 225 schools). Of those schools, more than one out of five belong to the National Catholic Educational Association (22 percent; 37 of 170 schools).³⁴

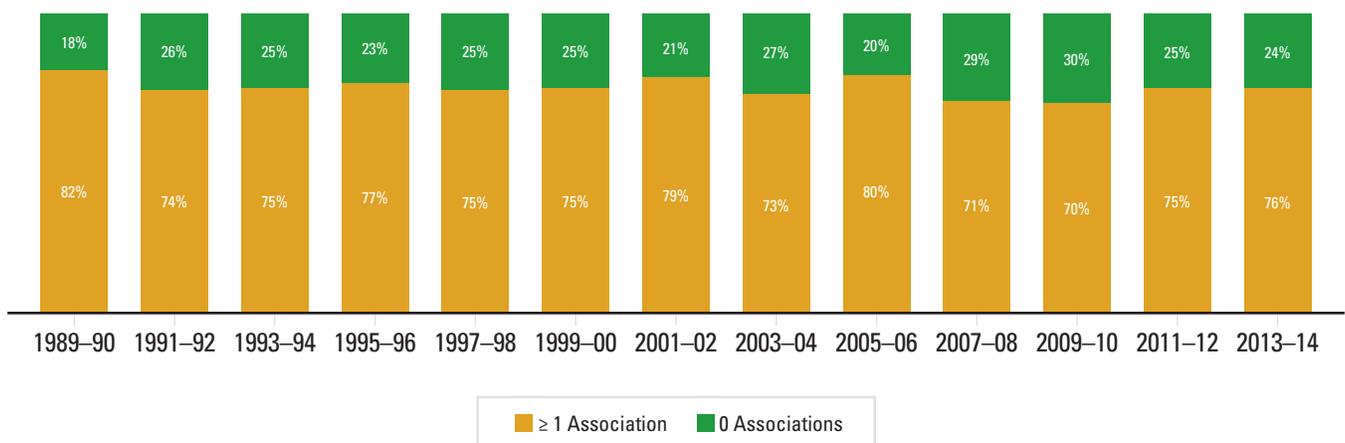
Of Colorado private schools' top three individual association memberships in 2013–14, the proportion of schools belonging to the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) has grown the most over time, from 8 percent in 1989–90 (18 of 214 schools) to 13 percent (30 of 225 schools). The percent of schools belonging to the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) has decreased the most over time, from a little more than one out of five schools in 1989–90 (22 percent; 48 of 214 schools) to approximately one out of six schools (16 percent; 37 of 225 schools). NCEA, ACSI, and the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) have represented more than one out of three private schools in Colorado in each school year analyzed.

Because the PSS data only covers respondents, it is important to note that these numbers may not accurately reflect the associations' memberships. In 2014–15, NCEA had 65 members, ACSI had 54 members, and NAIS had 29 full members.³⁵

Association Affiliation of Colorado Private Schools (2013–14)

Affiliation	Number of Private Schools	Percent of State's Private Schools
Belong to ≥ 1 Association	170	76%
Belong to 0 Associations	55	24%

Association Affiliations of Colorado Private Schools (1989–90 to 2013–14)

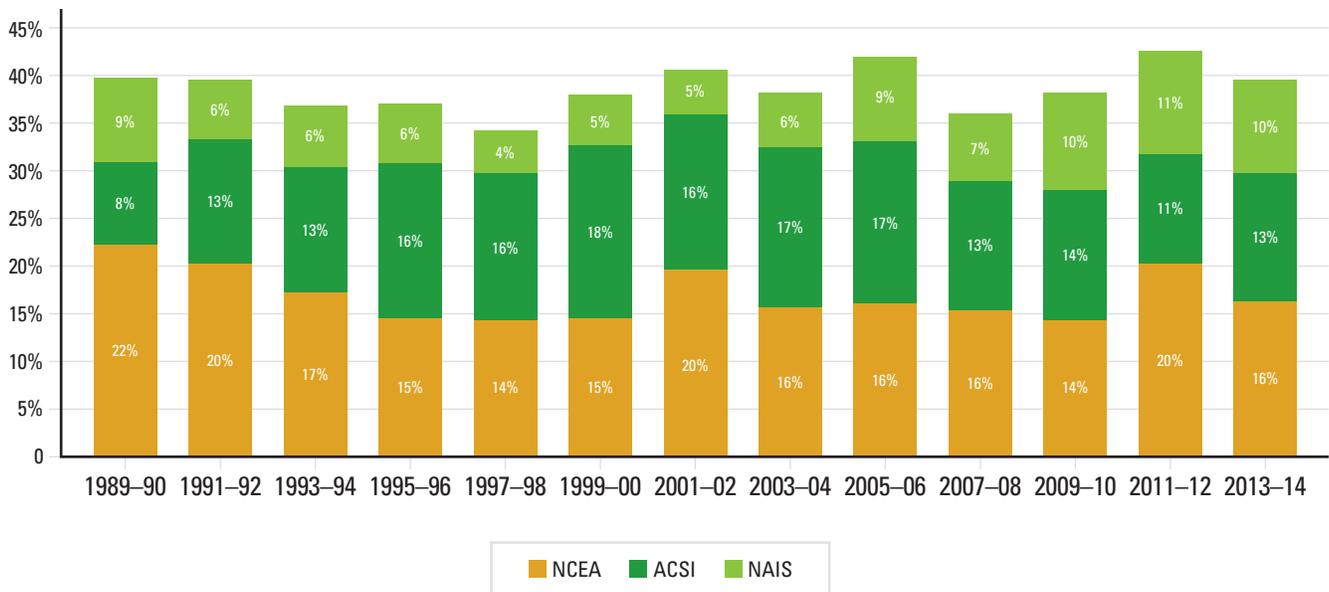


Continued

Nine Most Common Association Affiliations of Colorado Private Schools (2013–14)

Association	Number of Private Schools	Percent of State's Private Schools
National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA)	37	16%
Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)	30	13%
National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)	22	10%
State or regional independent school association	15	7%
General Conference of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church (GCSDAC)	11	5%
Accelerated Christian Education (ACE) or (School of Tomorrow)	7	3%
American Montessori Society (AMS)	6	3%
Association of Classical and Christian Schools	5	2%
American Association of Christian Schools (AACCS)	4	2%

Most Common Affiliations of Colorado Private Schools (1989–90 to 2013–14)



APPENDIX A: Response Rates Using AAPOR RR2

Question/Item	Number of Respondents	Response Rate
Contact Information	175	62.3%
Enrollment and Capacity	162	57.7%
Prekindergarten	116	41.3%
Kindergarten	132	47.0%
Elementary School	134	47.7%
Middle School	135	48.0%
High School	107	38.1%
Ungraded	51	18.1%
School Tuition and Fees	155	55.2%
Prekindergarten	89	31.7%
Kindergarten	125	44.5%
Elementary School	130	46.3%
Middle School	128	45.6%
High School	72	25.6%
School Fees	134	47.7%
Registration/Application	124	44.1%
Textbooks	36	12.8%
Technology	22	7.8%
Transportation	10	3.6%
Uniforms	10	3.6%
Other	44	15.7%
Financial Aid	145	51.6%
Education Savings Accounts	146	52.0%
Tax-Credit Scholarships	142	50.5%
School Vouchers	141	50.2%
Rules and Regulations	139	49.5%
Testing and Accountability	134	47.7%
Paperwork and Reporting	136	48.4%
Financial Reporting and Disclosure	134	47.7%
Student Eligibility for Program	132	47.0%
Building Safety and Security	136	48.4%
Tuition and Fees	131	46.6%
Teacher/Staff Certification and Licensure	137	48.8%
School Eligibility for Program	131	46.6%
Curriculum and Instruction	136	48.4%
School Admissions and Enrollment Guidelines	135	48.0%
Accommodations for Students with Special Needs	135	48.0%
Other	21	7.5%
Standardized Assessments/Testing	144	51.2%
Grade Levels Tested	119	42.3%
Tests Administering	120	42.7%
Special Education	143	50.9%
Percentage	96	34.2%
COMPLETED SURVEY	137	48.8%

APPENDIX B: Friedman Foundation Survey Screenshots

Required answers are indicated where applicable.

The screenshot shows the introduction page of a survey. At the top, it features the Friedman Foundation logo with the tagline 'FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE'. Below the logo is a blue header bar with the text 'Colorado Private School Survey' and a darker blue bar with 'Introduction'. The main content area contains several paragraphs of text, including a thank you message, information about a random drawing with prizes, and details about the survey's length and confidentiality. At the bottom, there is a list of supporting organizations and a 'Next >>' button.

FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE

Colorado Private School Survey

Introduction

Thank you very much for participating in this brief school survey. We value your responses and input.

Successful completion of all items will automatically enter your school in a random drawing. One selected school will win a \$1,000 gift card. Five randomly selected schools will each win a \$200 gift card. Your responses will remain confidential.

There will be about 15 items for you to answer regarding your school, and depending on the availability of information, this survey should take about 10 to 15 minutes.

We are grateful for your time and assistance. Thank you!

<dd>Drew Catt</dd>

<dd>Research Analyst</dd> <dd>Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice</dd>

The following organizations have expressed their support of this survey:

- ACE Scholarships
- AdvancED (contact: David Hurst at dhurst@advanc-ed.org)
- Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)
- Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA)
- Christian Schools International
- National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA)

Next >>

FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE

Colorado Private School Survey

Basic Information

Please enter the name of your school.

Please provide your school's name and contact information.

School Name

Please enter the name of your Town/City.

Street Address1

Street Address2

Town/City

County

ZIP Code

Phone

Web Site Address

[<< Back](#) [Next >>](#)

FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE

Colorado Private School Survey

Enrollment and Capacity Information

On the next page, please enter your enrollment and capacity, by grade range (PK, K, 1-5, 6-8, 9-12), for the 2014-15 school year.

We define "capacity" as the total number of student seats in your school, including both currently occupied and currently vacant seats.

Please respond for all levels that apply.

NOTE: Capacity will be greater than or equal to enrollment for the school.

<< Back

Next >>

FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE

Colorado Private School Survey

Enrollment and Capacity Information

13% completed so far...

This question requires an answer.

*****Total Enrolled*****

Pre-Kindergarten

Kindergarten

Elementary School (1-5)

Middle School (6-8)

High School (9-12)

Ungraded

This question requires an answer.

*****Total Capacity*****

Pre-Kindergarten

Kindergarten

Elementary School (1-5)

Middle School (6-8)

High School (9-12)

Ungraded

Comments?

<< Back

Next >>

FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE

Colorado Private School Survey

School Tuition and Fees

19% completed so far...

This question requires an answer.

For this year, what is the annual average tuition and fees at your school (not including tuition assistance or discounts)? Please respond for all levels that apply.

(feel free to round to nearest \$100)

Pre-Kindergarten

Kindergarten

Elementary School (1-5)

Middle School (6-8)

High School (9-12)

Comments?

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FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION
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Colorado Private School Survey

School Fees

25% completed so far...

Some private schools separate certain fees from the tuition costs. If your school does so, generally how much is charged annually for each of the following fee categories?

Registration/Application

Textbooks

Technology

Transportation

Uniforms

Other (please specify category)

Comments?

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FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION
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Colorado Private School Survey

Financial Aid

31% completed so far...

For this year, what is the *annual average amount* of tuition assistance (including discounts) per student at your school?

(feel free to round to nearest \$100)

Comments?

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FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE

Colorado Private School Survey

Financial Aid

38% completed so far...

Approximately what percentage (%) of your school's students receive some form of financial assistance, including discounts?

(if necessary, feel free to round to nearest 5% or 10%)

Comments?

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Colorado Private School Survey

Education Savings Accounts

44% completed so far...

Some states allow parents to take their child out of a public district or charter school and receive a payment into a government-authorized "education savings account" - often called an "ESA" - with restricted, but multiple uses. Parents can then use these funds to pay for private school tuition, virtual education programs, private tutoring, and saving for future college expenses, among others.

The State of Colorado may consider a "school choice" proposal to establish ESAs, allowing parents the option of sending their child to the school of their choice, whether that school is public or private, including both religious and non-religious schools.

Depending on regulations and what would be required of schools, would your school be interested in participating in a school choice program where the state funds ESAs? Your response is not binding. Please indicate one:

- Yes
- Probably Yes
- Maybe
- Probably Not
- No

Comments?

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FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE

Colorado Private School Survey

Tax-Credit Scholarships

50% completed so far...

Some states give tax credits to individuals and businesses if they contribute money to nonprofit organizations that distribute private school scholarships.

Depending on regulations and what would be required of schools, would your school be interested in participating in this kind of "tax-credit scholarship" program? Your response is not binding. Please indicate one:

- Yes
- Probably Yes
- Maybe
- Probably Not
- No

Comments?

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Colorado Private School Survey

School Vouchers

56% completed so far...

Your local or nearby district school board may consider a "school choice" proposal to establish vouchers to go directly to students, allowing parents the option of sending their child to the school of their choice, whether that school is public or private, including both religious and non-religious schools.

For example, the Douglas County Choice Scholarship program provides 500 tuition vouchers to any public school students who have spent at least one year enrolled in the Douglas County School District. Participating private schools can be located outside Douglas County. Parents and community members, appointed by the school board, provide oversight.

Depending on regulations and what would be required of schools, would your school be interested in participating in such a school choice program? Your response is not binding. Please indicate one:

- Yes
- Probably Yes
- Maybe
- Probably Not
- No

Comments?

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Colorado Private School Survey

Rules and Regulations

63% completed so far...

What program rules or regulations would concern your school the most? On a scale from 1 (very low concern) to 5 (very high concern), please rate your concern for regulation in each of the following areas.

(not all categories need to be rated)

	Very Low	Somewhat Low	Moderate	Somewhat High	Very High
Accommodations for Students with Special Needs	<input type="radio"/>				
Financial Reporting & Disclosure	<input type="radio"/>				
Tuition & Fees	<input type="radio"/>				
Testing & Accountability	<input type="radio"/>				
Building Safety & Security	<input type="radio"/>				
Teacher/Staff Certification & Licensure	<input type="radio"/>				
Paperwork & Reporting	<input type="radio"/>				
Curriculum & Instruction	<input type="radio"/>				
Student Eligibility for Program (e.g. income limit)	<input type="radio"/>				
School Admissions & Enrollment Guidelines	<input type="radio"/>				
School Eligibility for Program (e.g. register with state)	<input type="radio"/>				
Other (please describe below)	<input type="radio"/>				

Other area:

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Colorado Private School Survey

Standardized Assessments/Testing

70% completed so far...

This question requires an answer.

Does your school administer some type of norm-referenced assessment (i.e. standardized test) to measure student academic performance?

Yes

No

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FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE

Colorado Private School Survey

Standardized Assessments/Testing

75% completed so far...

Do you test all, most, or a few grade levels?

- All
- Most
- Few

Comments?

This question requires an answer.

Do you use Colorado's state test, or some other national norm-referenced test?

- State
- State + Other(s)
- Other(s) only

If "Other," please specify:

Comments?

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FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION
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Colorado Private School Survey

Special Education

81% completed so far...

This question requires an answer.

Does your school serve students who are considered as having special needs*?

- Yes
- No

*Students within this population may have: autism, deaf-blindness, developmental delay, hearing impairment, intellectual disability, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, serious emotional disturbance, specific learning disability, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, visual impairment, or other health impairments.

Comments?

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FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION
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Colorado Private School Survey

Special Education

88% completed so far...

Approximately what percentage (%) of your school's students are considered as having special needs*?

(if necessary, feel free to round the to nearest percentage point)

*Students within this population may have: autism, deaf-blindness, developmental delay, hearing impairment, intellectual disability, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, serious emotional disturbance, specific learning disability, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, visual impairment, or other health impairments.

Comments?

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FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION
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Colorado Private School Survey

Final Comments?

94% completed so far...

We are close to finishing this survey.

Please provide us with any more details of your school's interests, priorities, or concerns regarding possible participation in a school choice program.

If you have nothing more to share at this time, please go to the next page to complete the survey.

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FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION
— FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE —

Colorado Private School Survey

Survey Completed!

Thank you! We greatly appreciate your time to complete this survey.

In order to enter your school in the random drawing for a \$1,000 or \$200 gift card, please provide us with your brief contact information.

Your Full Name

Job Title

Email Address

Daytime Phone

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Done >>

APPENDIX C: PSS Respondent K-Terminal Schools

When included in the overall universe of Colorado private schools responding to the most recent PSS survey, kindergarten-terminal (PK–K or K only) schools account for 33 percent of the total. These 109 schools:

- Mostly serve both prekindergarteners and kindergarteners (94 percent; 102 of 109 schools),
- Serve more prekindergarteners than kindergarteners,
 - 81 percent of students served are prekindergarteners
 - 18 percent of students served are kindergarteners
- Are mostly in Denver (11 percent; 12 of 109 schools) and in Douglas County (17 percent; 18 of 109 schools),
- Are mostly in suburban areas (56 percent; 62 of 109 schools),
- Have an average enrollment of 82 students and a median enrollment of 67 students,
- Serve mostly white students (79 percent),
- Serve students for an average of 6.8 hours per day for an average of 191 days per year,
- Have an average of 8.9 students per teacher and a median of 7.9 students per teacher,
- Are predominately nonsectarian (81 percent; 88 of 109 schools), and
 - Six schools are Christian (no specific denomination)
 - Six schools belong to the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
 - Two schools are Baptist
 - Two schools belong to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 - Two schools are Methodist
- Half belong to at least one association (50 percent; 55 of 109 schools).
 - 18 percent (20 of 109 schools) belong to the American Montessori Society (AMS)
 - 13 percent (14 of 109 schools) belong to the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

NOTES

1. "Vouchers in Colorado: Supporters Show Persistence in Repeated Efforts," Chalkbeat Colo., last modified Aug. 25, 2012, <http://co.chalkbeat.org/topic-vouchers>.
2. The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *The ABCs of School Choice: The Comprehensive Guide to Every Private School Choice Program in America*, 2015 ed. (Indianapolis: Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, 2015), p. 19, <http://www.edchoice.org/research/the-ABCs-of-school-choice/>.
3. Independence Institute, "Douglas County Vouchers," accessed Mar. 18, 2015, <http://education.i2i.org/douglas-county-vouchers>. Although it was named the Choice Scholarship Pilot Program when it was launched, the program is now known as the Douglas County Choice Scholarship Program (CSP).
4. Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, "Colorado – Douglas County Choice Scholarship Program," accessed Aug. 27, 2015, <http://www.edchoice.org/school-choice/programs/colorado-douglas-county-choice-scholarship-program>.
5. Brittany Corona, "This Case Could Open Up School Choice Options for 37 States," *Daily Signal*, Sept. 15, 2015, <http://dailysignal.com/2015/09/15/this-case-could-open-up-school-choice-options-for-37-states>.
6. Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *The ABCs of School Choice*, p. 3.
7. "Private School Universe Survey (PSS)," National Center for Education Statistics, accessed Mar. 12, 2015, <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/index.asp>.
8. US Dept. of Education, PSS Private School Universe Survey data for the 2013–14 school year, <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/privateschoolsearch>.
9. Stephen P. Broughman and Nancy L. Swaim, *Characteristics of Private Schools in the United States: Results From the 2011–12 Private School Universe Survey*, NCES 2013-316 (Washington, DC: US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics), table 15, p. 20, <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2013/2013316.pdf>.
10. US Dept. of Education, PSS Private School Universe Survey data for the 2013–14 school year, <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/privateschoolsearch>. "Ungraded students are those who are not assigned to a particular grade level (kindergarten, first grade, second grade, etc.) For example, special education centers and alternative schools often classify their students as ungraded. Students in Montessori schools are also considered ungraded if the school assigns them to 'primary' and 'intermediate' levels instead of specific grades." Broughman and Swaim, *Results From the 2011–12 Private School Universe Survey*, pp. A–3–4.
11. "A school is kindergarten-terminal (K-terminal) if kindergarten is the highest grade offered at the school." Broughman and Swaim, *Results From the 2011–12 Private School Universe Survey*, p. A–1.
12. Author's calculations; "Pupil Membership – Non-Public School," Colo. Dept. of Education, accessed June 12, 2015, <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdereval/pupilmembershipnonpublic>.
13. This is only the number of respondents that entered at least enrollment and capacity data. There were 140 respondents that completed the entire survey. 13 schools submitted multiple responses and 15 duplicates were removed from the dataset. One Saturday-only school was also removed from the dataset.
14. The Friedman Foundation incentivized schools to complete the survey by entering them into a randomized drawing to win a \$1,000 gift card or one of five \$200 gift cards.
15. Due to rounding, percentage totals for a given question may be slightly greater or less than 100 percent.
16. Three schools are funded by outside sources and do not charge any tuition. These schools were not included for the calculations of average and median, but they were included in the proportions of Colo. private schools charging less than \$2,500.
17. Students with special needs was defined on the survey as students that may have autism, deaf-blindness, developmental delay, hearing impairment, intellectual disability, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, serious emotional disturbance, specific learning disability, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, visual impairment, or other health impairments.
18. US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "Local Education Agency (School District) Universe Survey", 2012–13 v.1a, "Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey", 2012–13 v.1a, and "State Nonfiscal Public Elementary/Secondary Education Survey", 2012–13 v.1a, accessed Mar. 18, 2015 via ELSI *tableGenerator*, <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/elsi/tableGenerator.aspx>.
19. Two schools that said they administer a norm-referenced test did not respond to the question asking how many grade levels are tested. One school did not list which test is administered.
20. Denver County accounted for 51 of 264 PSS respondents we looked at in 2009–10, 49 of 277 in 2007–08, 55 of 308 in 2005–06, 53 of 293 in 2003–04, 54 of 295 in 2001–02, 58 of 294 in 1999–00, 62 of 315 in 1997–98, 60 of 307 in 1995–96, 69 of 285 in 1993–94, and 68 of 270 in 1991–92. The 214 respondents in 1989–90 did not have counties attributed to them.
21. Since Denver is a consolidated city and county, we are assuming that there is an overestimation of respondents in the city of Denver because their school may actually be located in a suburb. There were two PSS respondents in 2013–14 that reported their city as Denver but their county as Adams, three that reported their city as Denver but their county as Arapahoe, and two that reported their city as Denver but their county as Jefferson.
22. Ibid.
23. US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey," 2012–13 v.1a and "State Nonfiscal Public Elementary/Secondary Education Survey," 2012–13 v.1a, accessed Mar. 17, 2015 via ELSI *tableGenerator*, <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/elsi/tableGenerator.aspx>; Broughman, *Private School Universe Survey, 1993–94*, NCES 96-143 (Washington, DC: US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1996), table 17, p. 46, <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs/96143.pdf>; Broughman and Lenore A. Colaciello, *Private School Universe Survey, 1995–96*, NCES 98-229 (Washington, DC: US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1998), table 17, p. 22, <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs98/98229.pdf>; Broughman and Colaciello, *Private School Universe Survey, 1997–98*, NCES 1999-319 (Washington, DC: US Dept. of Education, National

Center for Education Statistics), table 22, p. 27, <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs99/1999319.pdf>; Broughman and Colaciello, *Private School Universe Survey: 1999–2000*, NCES 2001-330 (Washington, DC: US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics), table 22, p. 26, <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2001/2001330.pdf>; US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, “Private School Universe Survey (PSS) – Data Tables – High School Graduates,” accessed Mar. 17, 2015, <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/tables1112.asp>.

24. Author’s calculations; Ibid.

25. Does not include 37 PK-only, 4 K-terminal schools, or 38 schools without this data. “Search for Public Schools,” National Center for Education Statistics, accessed Mar. 12, 2015, <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/schoolsearch/index.asp>.

26. “A Story of Preschool Services in Colorado,” Colo. Dept. of Education, accessed Apr. 14, 2015, <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cpp/datavisualization1.htm>.

27. Ross Izard (education policy analyst, Independence Institute), e-mail message to author, Apr. 8, 2015.

28. “Overview,” Denver Preschool Program, accessed Apr. 14, 2015, <http://www.dpp.org/about-us/main>.

29. “FAQs,” Denver Preschool Program, accessed Apr. 14, 2015, <http://www.dpp.org/about-us/faqs>.

30. US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), “Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey,” 2011–12 v.1a and “State Nonfiscal Public Elementary/Secondary Education Survey,” 2012–13 v.1a, accessed Apr. 2, 2015 via ELSI *tableGenerator*, <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/elsi/tableGenerator.aspx>. Male and female are the only options presented on the federal surveys.

31. “Pupil Membership – Previous School Years,” Colo. Dept. of Education, accessed June 12, 2015, <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdereval/rvprioryearpmdata>.

32. Ibid.; “American FactFinder,” United States Census Bureau, 2006 ACS and 2013 ACS 1-year estimates, table DP05, <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml>.

33. See note 25 above.

34. The only specific school associations that the PSS has as options are ACE, the American Association of Christian Schools (AACCS), ACSI, the Association of Christian Teachers and Schools (ACTS), the Association of Classical and Christian Schools (ACCS), Christian Schools International (CSI), the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association (ELEA), Friends Council on Education (FCE), the General Conference of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church (GCSDAC), the Islamic School League of America (ISLA), the Jesuit Secondary Education Association (JSEA), the National Association of Episcopal Schools (NAES), NCEA, the National Christian School Association (NCSA), the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools (Torah U’Mesorah), Oral Roberts University Educational Fellowship (ORUEF), The Jewish Community Day School Association (SSDSA), the Solomon Schechter Day Schools Association (SSDSA), the Southern Baptist Association of Christian Schools (SBACS), the American Montessori Society (AMS), Association Montessori International (AMI), the Association of Military Colleges and Schools (AMCS), the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA), the National Association of Private Special Education Centers (NAPSEC), the European Council for International Schools (ECIS), the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the National Association of Laboratory Schools (NALS), the National Coalition of Girls’ Schools (NCGS), the Alternative School Network (ASN),

the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), the National Coalition of Alternative Community Schools (NCACS), the National Independent Private School Association (NIPSA), and The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS).

35. Dale McDonald (director of public policy and educational research, National Catholic Educational Association), e-mail message to author, Mar. 24, 2015; “Member Search,” Association of Christian Schools International, accessed Mar. 31, 2015, <http://www.acsiglobal.org/member-search>; “NAIS School Search,” National Association of Independent Schools, accessed Mar. 31, 2015, <http://www.nais.org/Users/Pages/SchoolSearch.aspx>.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Andrew D. Catt is the research and policy associate for the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice. In that role, Drew conducts analyses on private school choice programs and supports quality control as the Foundation's research and data verifier.

Prior to joining the Friedman Foundation in May 2013, Drew served as the program associate for The Clowes Fund, a private family foundation located in Indianapolis that awards grants to nonprofits in Seattle, Greater Indianapolis, and Northern New England.

Drew graduated from Vanderbilt University in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in Human and Organizational Development, specializing in Leadership and Organizational Effectiveness. While at Vanderbilt, Drew served as research assistant for North Star Destination Strategies, a community branding organization. During that time, Drew also researched the effects of homeschooling on socialization.

Drew obtained his master's degree in Nonprofit Management at Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs in Indianapolis. He also completed his Master of Arts in Philanthropic Studies through the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. While in graduate school, Drew's research focused on teacher performance incentives and cross-sector collaboration.

Drew is a native of central Indiana and currently resides in downtown Indianapolis.

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All remaining errors are mine. The views expressed in this report are the author's and do not necessarily represent the views of the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice.

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