

Colorado’s School Districts

- Colorado encompasses 103,718 square miles: urban, rural, suburban, mid-sized and small towns.
- Geography: Plains and mountains. Type: Urban, agricultural, mining, tourist.
- 63 counties with density ranges of 1 to over 600 people per square mile.
- 179 school districts (includes the Charter School Institute).
- Student population continues to increase on average of 8,000 + students per year.
- Over 100 school districts are declining or flat in enrollment growth.

District Size Information

DISTRICT SIZE INFORMATION					
District Size	Number of Districts	Percentage of Districts	Total Students	Percentage of Students	Average District Size
0-500	83	46.4%	19,865	2.3%	239
501-1,000	22	12.3%	15,555	1.8%	707
1,001 - 5,000	42	23.5%	86,047	10.1%	2,049
5,001 - 10,000	11	6.1%	75,035	8.8%	6,821
10,001 - 20,000	9	5.0%	131,393	15.4%	14,599
Over 20,000	12	6.7%	525,512	61.6%	43,793
State	179		853,407		4,768

- The number of students in a district ranges from fewer than 100 to over 80,000 students.
- Over 100 school districts have student populations of less than 1,000.
- The majority of students (61.6%) are served in the 12 largest districts (over 20,000 students).

Colorado School Finance Project

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Free and Reduced Price Lunch Information

DISTRICT FREE/REDUCED PRICE LUNCH INFORMATION			
District Size	Percentage of Free Lunch	Percentage Reduced Lunch	Percentage Free/Reduced Lunch
0-500	36.1%	12.6%	48.7%
501-1,000	40.2%	9.7%	49.9%
1,001 - 5,000	34.7%	8.9%	43.7%
5,001 - 10,000	38.1%	9.6%	47.6%
10,001 - 20,000	40.8%	7.9%	48.7%
Over 20,000	29.8%	6.0%	35.8%
State	36.2%	10.5%	46.7%

- When grouped by student count, Colorado’s smaller districts have a larger percentage of students living in poverty than the largest districts (over 20,000 students).
- Almost half of Colorado’s students are Free or Reduced Lunch. Colorado does **not** fund students identified in reduced lunch count.
- Districts serving less than 500 students: 19 districts have over 60-100% of their students identified as Free/Reduced Lunch. 38 districts have between 40-60% Free/Reduced Lunch. (see chart below).
- Two districts serving over 20,000 students have over 60-80% of their students identified as Free/Reduced Lunch (see chart below).

FREE/REDUCED PRICE PERCENTAGES BY DISTRICT SIZE					
District Size	0 - 20% Free/Reduced	20 - 40% Free/Reduced	40 - 60% Free/Reduced	60 - 80% Free/Reduced	80 - 100% Free/Reduced
0-500		26	38	16	3
501-1,000	1	5	9	6	1
1,001 - 5,000	5	13	15	9	
5,001 - 10,000	1	1	7	1	1
10,001 - 20,000		4	2	2	1
Over 20,000	3	5	2	2	