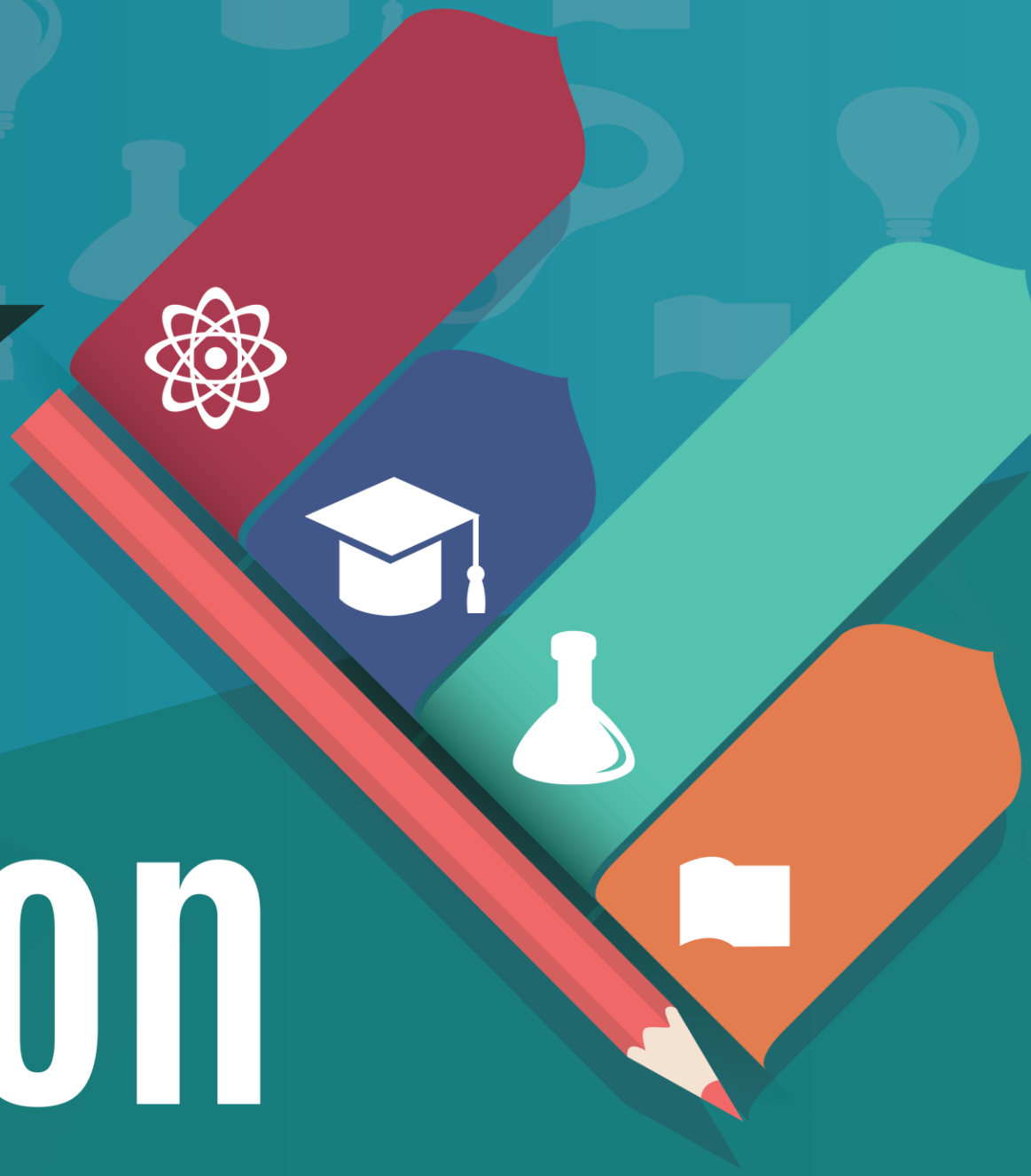
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Chamber of Commerce

2025 Community Impact Forums

State of Education



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Welcome

Kami Welch

President & CEO,
Greater Arvada Chamber

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2025 Community Impact Forums

Welcome Elected Officials

Red Silo
COFFEE ROASTERS

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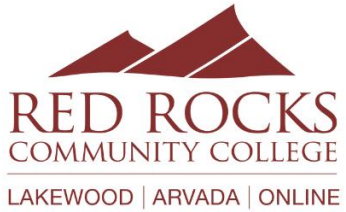


















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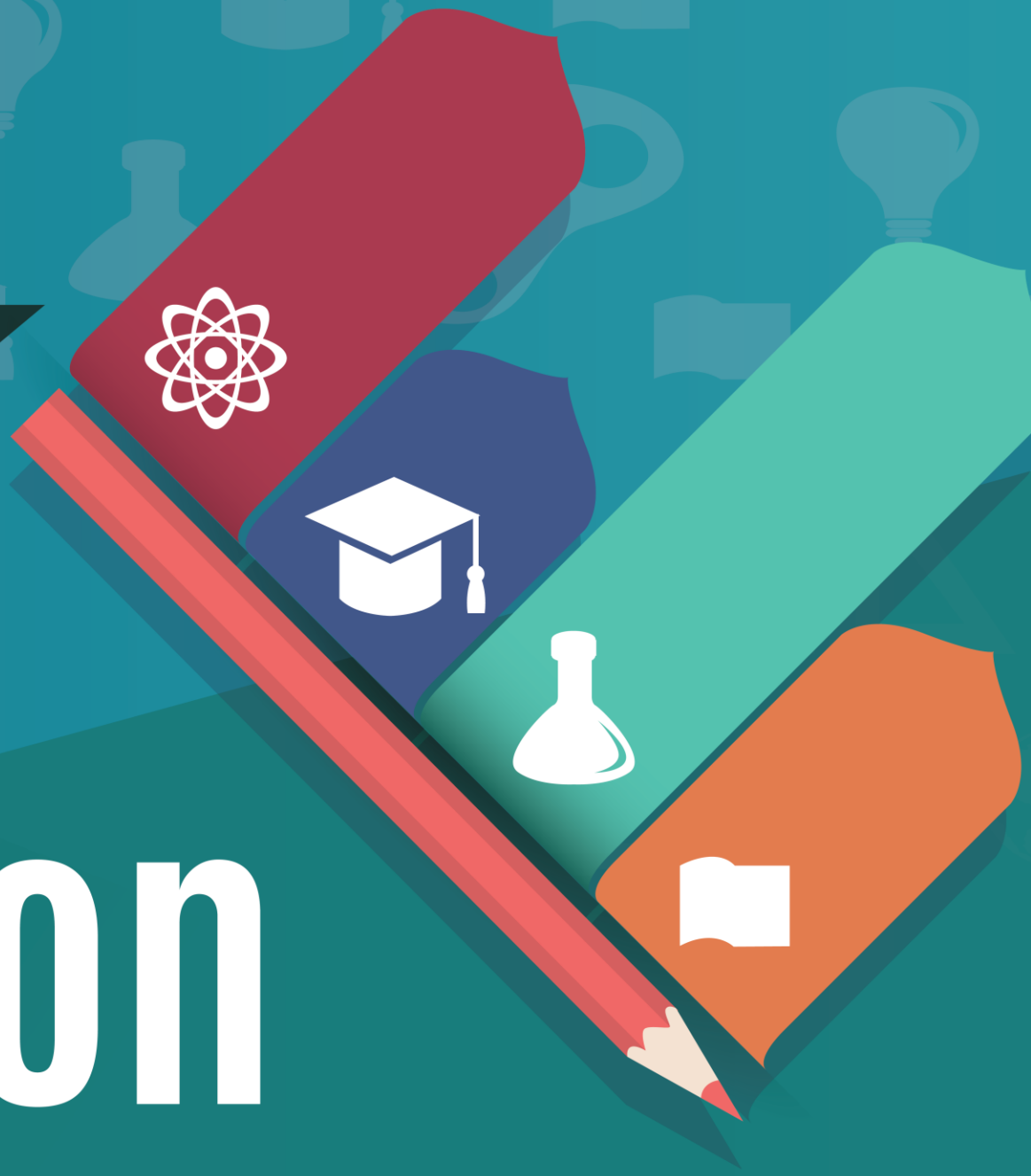
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Power Partners

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2025 Community Impact Forums

Welcome

Superintendent Tracy Dorland

Jefferson County Schools



STATE OF THE DISTRICT

Superintendent Tracy Dorland

JEFFCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board of Education Representatives



Mary Parker
President



Paula Reed
1st Vice President



Erin Kenworthy
2nd Vice President



Danielle Varda
Treasurer



Michelle Applegate
Secretary

2025-26
Year 5



JEFFCO 2025 THRIVES

Vision

To be a thriving district where all students achieve their biggest dreams.

Mission

To provide a world-class education that prepares all Jeffco students for bright and successful futures locally & globally.

Values

Focus on Students | Excellence | Equity | Integrity | Belonging

4 Priorities

1. Our Learners: Our Future

   Culture of Instructional Excellence
   Extraordinary Student Experience

2. Our People: Our Strength
3. Our Operations: Our Foundation
4. Our Communities: Our Legacy

2025-26 Major Initiatives

(that guide all priorities)

Major Initiative #1:
Student Outcomes

Major Initiative #2:
Central Services in Support of Student Outcomes

Getting Results for Jeffco Students

JEFFCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

We are focused on our students. Jeffco students outperform the state average on standardized tests.

- PSAT/SAT results show that Jeffco graduates are prepared for college and careers at higher rates than their peers across the state.
- According to the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS), Jeffco student's reading, math and science scores outperformed the state averages
    - 108 Jeffco schools meet or exceed the state's expected growth at the 50th percentile in reading and/or math
    - 13 schools exceed expected growth at the 65th percentile or higher
    - 2024 results release on August 21, but as a preview: CMAS Math and English Language Arts scores increased from 1-6 points compared to 2023 for all tests but one.





JEFFCO 2025

THRIVES



Magic of Middle School



Career-Connected Learning



High School Reimagined

Jeffco is a leader building a community of leaders.

- Jeffco's 17 neighborhood high schools achieved an impressive **93% graduation rate**, 9% higher than the state's average.
- CTE concentrators continue to **graduate at over 96% with all student groups over 91%** (economically disadvantaged students ~94% graduation rate for CTE concentrators, compared to ~73% overall)
- 14,219 high school students enrolled in Jeffco's career and technical education programs (CTE) last year.
- 570 Jeffco students were concurrently enrolled in college classes, saving Jeffco families $4M in tuition.
- The class of 2025 earned $15.3M in college scholarships.

Safe & Welcoming Environments

Where we were. Where we are. Where we are going.

The district has over **145 safety and security staff** + **35 SROs**

1. Campus Security
2. Dispatch
3. Emergency Management
4. Armed Patrol
5. Judicial Services/Behavioral Threat Mgmt

… working **24 hours a day** to protect:

- **145 schools**
- **69,000 students**
- **14,000 employees**
- **168 campuses**



Campus supervisors and SRO at Ralston Valley High School

The JEFFCO THRIVES 2025 Alliance



In Jeffco, we are **delivering results for your children**.

However, **Jeffco students are hindered by less funding** to support their education than their peers.

JEFFCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

How Schools Are Funded

The state legislature sets total funding for each school district each year. Think of our funding as a pitcher, set by the state and filled with state and local funding.

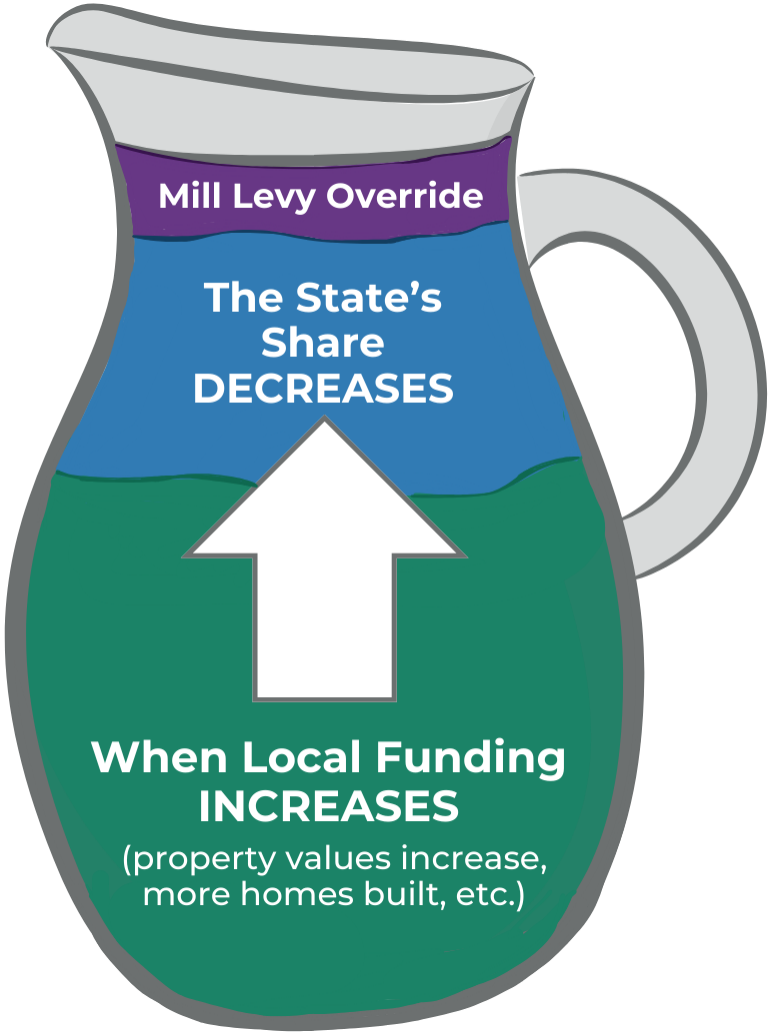
Local Share = Fixed tax rate set by the state of Colorado and applied to all taxpayers. State law says Jeffco must certify 27 mills as a local contribution.

State Share = Funding from State Income Tax and Sales Tax allocated by Legislature.

Mill Levy Override = Voter approved additional Tax that goes straight to Jeffco Public Schools, outside the total program computation.

More Local Share = Less State Share

An increase in local funding due to economic growth and rising property taxes does not provide our schools with more money (and it does not increase the size of the pitcher) — it just means the state contributes less.



Front Range District Funding

Jeffco is the second largest school district in the state and falls behind several Front Range districts when it comes to funding

Denver, Cherry Creek and Boulder are all at Total Maximum Allowable Override

District	Jeffco	Denver	Cherry Creek	Boulder
Number of Students funded count *includes charter schools*	**76,823**	84,848	51,854	28,047
Total Program Funding Allocation *per student based on FTE CDE school finance formula*	**$10,328**	$10,991	$10,679	$10,497
Additional Voter Approved MLO when calculated *per student*	**+$1,987**	+$3,989	+$3,419	+$4,478
Additional Voter Approved MLO as a % of Total District Funding *total program funding allocation + voter approved MLO*	**17%**	27%	25%	30%

“

Jeffco collects the lowest amount of additional revenue per student among big metro districts – *CPR News*

JEFFCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Long-range
Financial Stability

FY27 Budget Reduction Blueprint Project



Jeffco Public Schools is developing a **Budget Reduction Blueprint** for the 2026–27 school year to proactively respond to the financial realities facing public education locally, in Colorado, and across the nation.

This challenge is the result of:

- Rising **personnel costs**, including compensation increases
- **Declining enrollment**
- Purposeful decisions to sustain student support after **pandemic relief funds elapsed**
- Failure to maximize **local revenue** and tie previous measures to inflation
- **Colorado**'s chronic underfunding of K-12 education

BUDGET REDUCTION blueprint

JEFFCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

We are not alone in facing this challenge

School districts across the state and country are reducing budgets due to:

- Enrollment decline
- Increase in the number of staff and/or an increase in staff compensation
- The end of pandemic-era relief funds

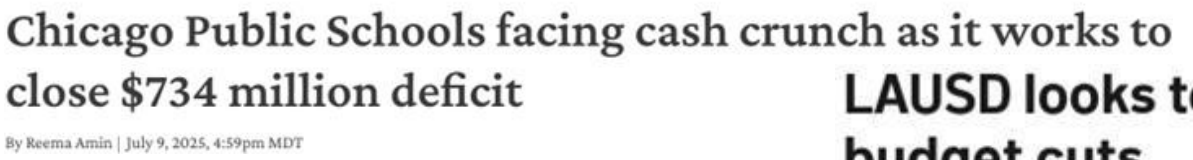


St. Louis Public Schools to propose closing over half of its 68 schools

The large-scale closures would be for 2026-27 and are based on declining enrollment and uncertainty about the future for families displaced by a tornado.

Published July 22, 2025

SCHOOL BOARDS DISTRICT MANAGEMENT CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Chicago Public Schools facing cash crunch as it works to close $734 million deficit

By Reema Amin | July 9, 2025, 4:59pm MDT



Adams 12 Five Star Schools eliminating 150 positions to meet Governor Polis' funding formula change

Declining enrollment and a change in the state's funding formula are both on the list of reasons Adams 12 Five Star Schools is facing a $27.5 million budget cut.

Posted 3:39 PM, Mar 28, 2025 and last updated 7:03 PM, Mar 28, 2025



LAUSD looks to challenging new school year with looming budget cuts

Superintendent Alberto Carvalho said there won't be any layoffs of furloughs in the new school year.

By Helen Jeong • Published July 22, 2025 • Updated on July 22, 2025 at 9:53 pm

Log in or create a free profile to save articles

We will Continue to Face Funding Uncertainty

Changes in the federal policy landscape have already disrupted the 2025-26 school year budget, including the temporary withholding of $3 million of federal funding in July 2025.

The federal government may choose to eliminate these and other funding sources in the near future.



EDUCATION

The Trump admin is withholding over $6 billion in education grants for schools

JULY 1, 2025 · 12:42 PM ET

Sequoia Carrillo



White House eyeing education cuts for next funding clawback package

The No. 2 House Republican says GOP leaders and the administration are in active talks about what rescissions bill to bring up next, and when.

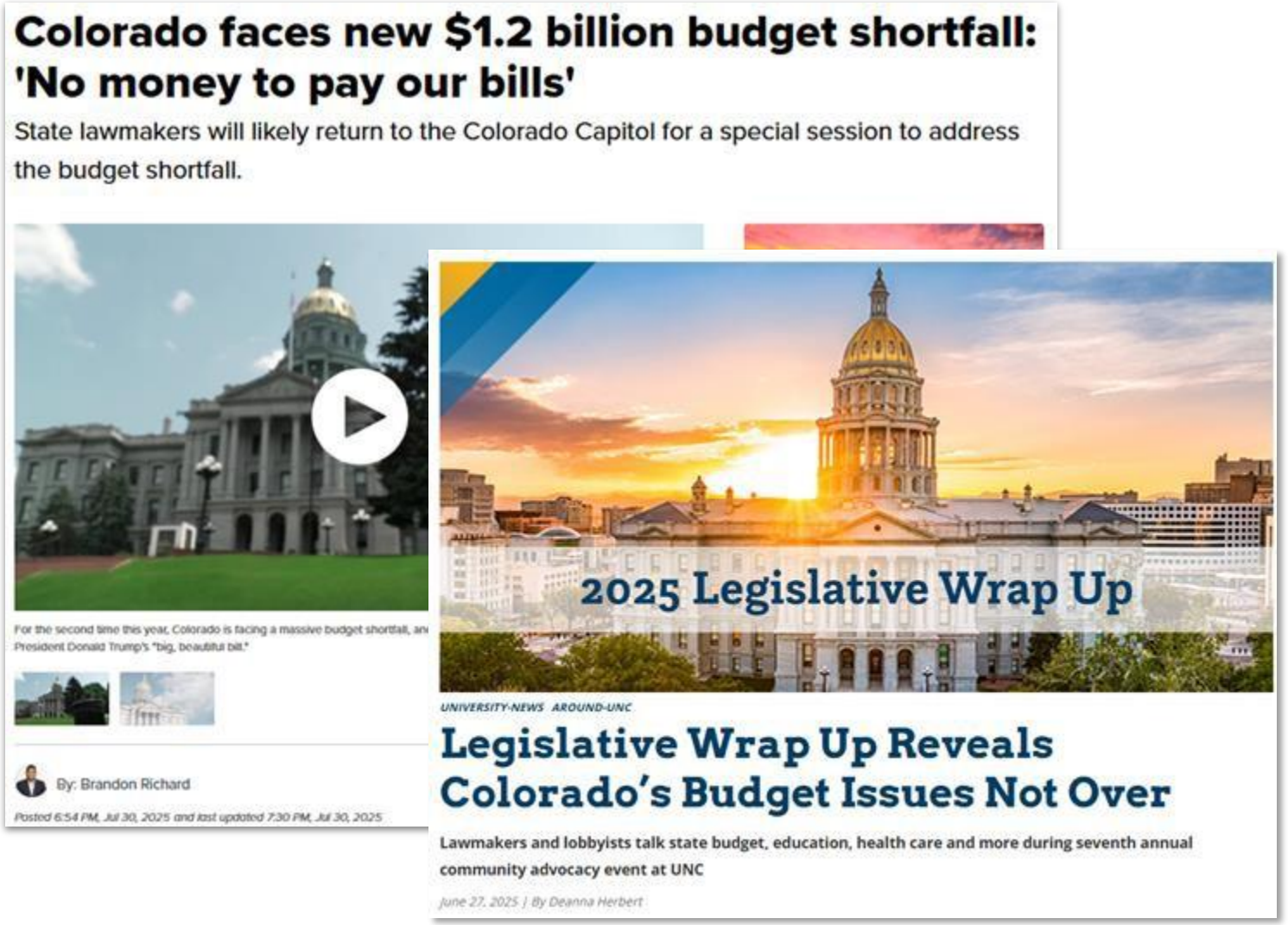
Office of Management and Budget Director Russell Vought prepares to testify during an appropriations hearing on Capitol Hill on Wednesday. | Francis Chung/POLITICO

By CALEN RAZOR, JUAN PEREZ JR. and ELI STOKOLS
07/22/2025 07:49 PM EDT

We will Continue to Face Funding Uncertainty

In addition, Colorado's state budget will continue to face challenges.

State lawmakers may decide to take actions to balance the state budget (e.g. reinstate the BS factor) that would further reduce state funding for education.



Colorado faces new $1.2 billion budget shortfall: 'No money to pay our bills'

State lawmakers will likely return to the Colorado Capitol for a special session to address the budget shortfall.

For the second time this year, Colorado is facing a massive budget shortfall, an… President Donald Trump's "big, beautiful bill."

By: Brandon Richard

Posted 6:54 PM, Jul 30, 2025 and last updated 7:30 PM, Jul 30, 2025

UNIVERSITY-NEWS AROUND-UNC

Legislative Wrap Up Reveals Colorado's Budget Issues Not Over

Lawmakers and lobbyists talk state budget, education, health care and more during seventh annual community advocacy event at UNC

June 27, 2025 | By Deanna Herbert

Funding Our Kids Can Count On

A community-driven solution to safeguard Jeffco's future

Potential Local Ballot Measures in 2026, 2027, or 2028

$64M*

Great Educators.
Safe Schools.
Bright Futures.

COMPENSATION
General Purpose MLO

$TBD

Exceptional Learning Environments—In the Classroom, On the Field

CAPITAL & TECHNOLOGY
Special Purpose MLO

**Net $57M after charter school share*

Where we are today

- Our priority is protecting resources in the classroom—where students learn and grow every day.
- This does not diminish the value of central teams or school supports, but reflects our financial reality and our responsibility to preserve student-facing roles.



BUDGET REDUCTION blueprint

JEFFCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Where we are today

Jeffco has made values-driven decisions to invest in students and the people who serve them.

- Students are making gains in math and reading, and graduating more ready for college and careers
- Our teams are stronger, more aligned, and more responsive thanks to the people, systems, and leadership we've built

BUDGET REDUCTION blueprint

JEFFCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Thank you!

Follow my Superintendent Instagram and Building Community Connections page to learn more about my experiences and interactions with students and educators across the district.

Building Community Connections

Our Community. Our Legacy.

Throughout the school year, Superintendent Tracy Dorland and Jeffco leaders attend events across the district to celebrate our schools and strengthen relationships with Jeffco families and community partners in support of student success.

Join us as we celebrate the positive impact of these engagements throughout the district.

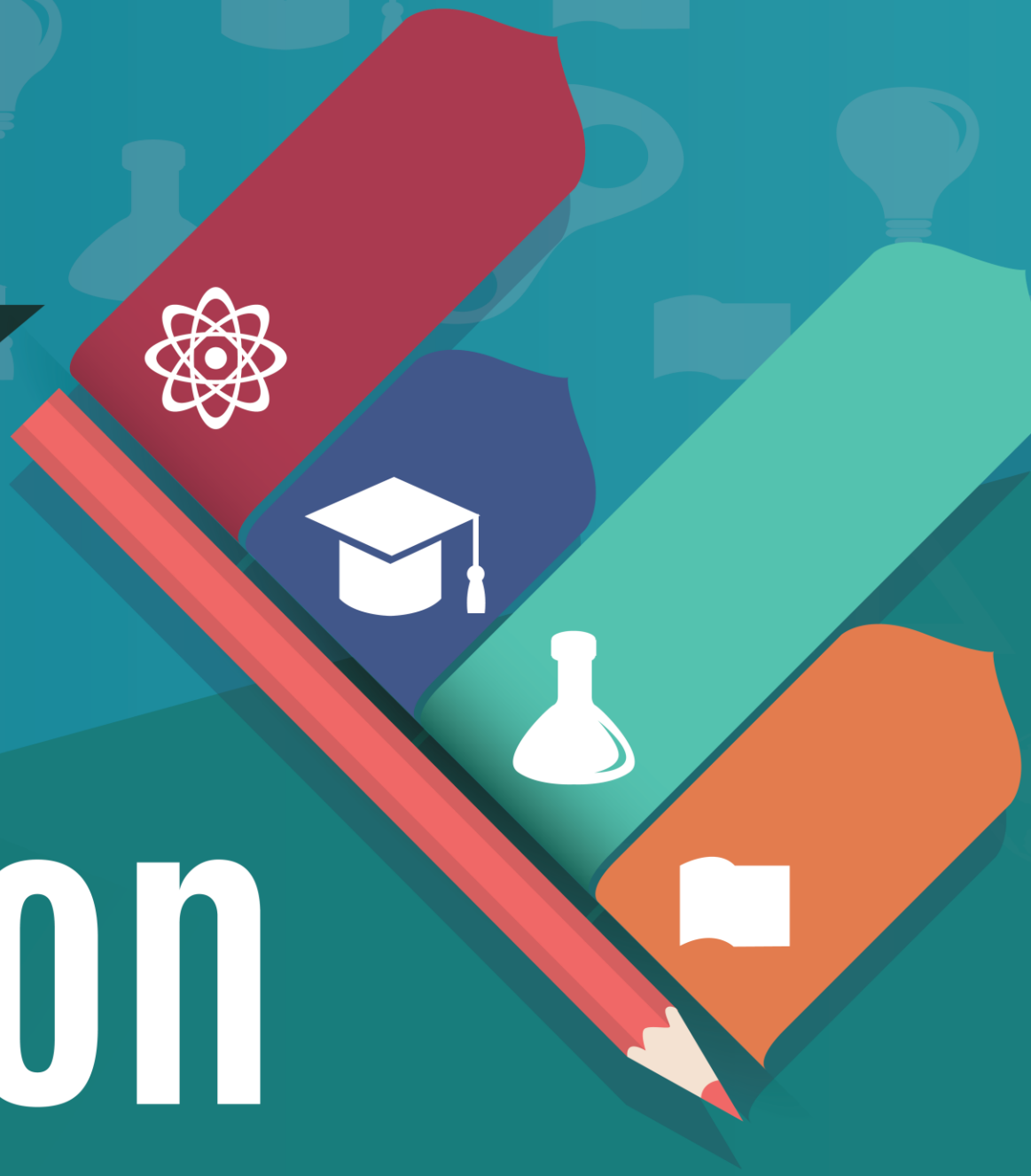


jps.click/community

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2025 Community Impact Forums

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2025 Community Impact Forums

Welcome
Dr. Landon Pirius
Red Rocks Community College President

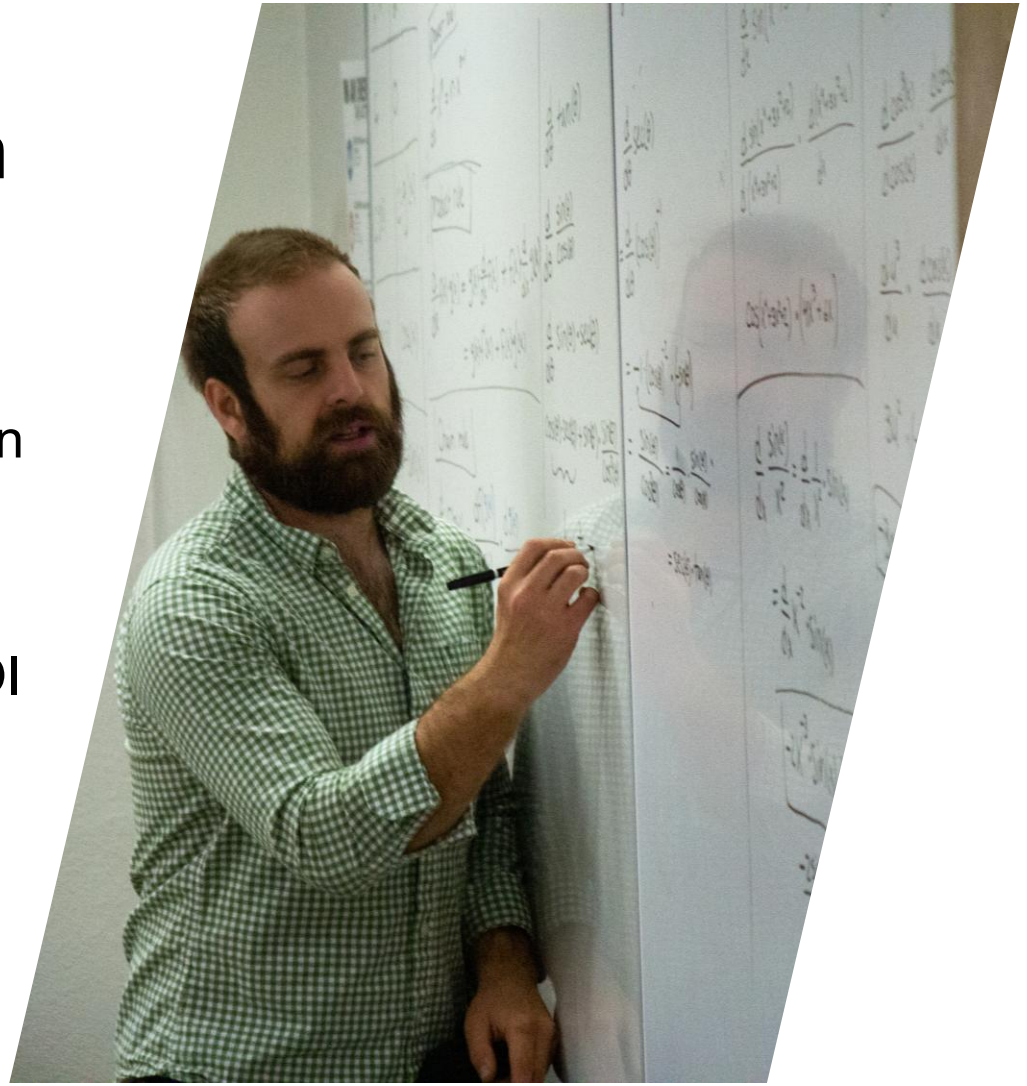
State of Higher Education

Landon K. Pirius, Ph.D.
President, Red Rocks Community College

RED ROCKS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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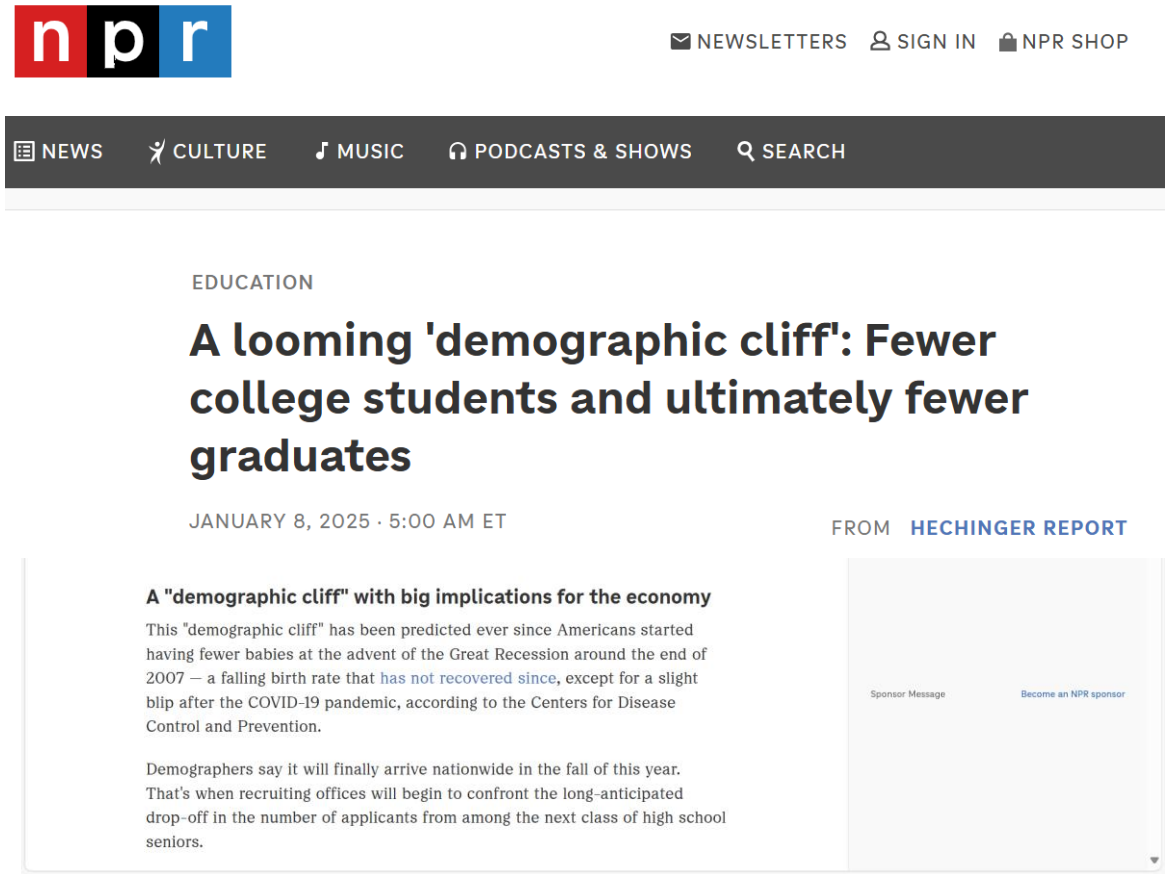
Higher Education Trends

- Enrollment
- Cost of Higher Education
- Federal Level Changes
- Colorado Realities
- Economic Mobility & ROI
- Community College Stigma



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Enrollment



npr

NEWSLETTERS SIGN IN NPR SHOP

NEWS CULTURE MUSIC PODCASTS & SHOWS SEARCH

EDUCATION

A looming 'demographic cliff': Fewer college students and ultimately fewer graduates

JANUARY 8, 2025 · 5:00 AM ET

FROM HECHINGER REPORT

A "demographic cliff" with big implications for the economy

This "demographic cliff" has been predicted ever since Americans started having fewer babies at the advent of the Great Recession around the end of 2007 — a falling birth rate that has not recovered since, except for a slight blip after the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Demographers say it will finally arrive nationwide in the fall of this year. That's when recruiting offices will begin to confront the long-anticipated drop-off in the number of applicants from among the next class of high school seniors.

Sponsor Message Become an NPR sponsor

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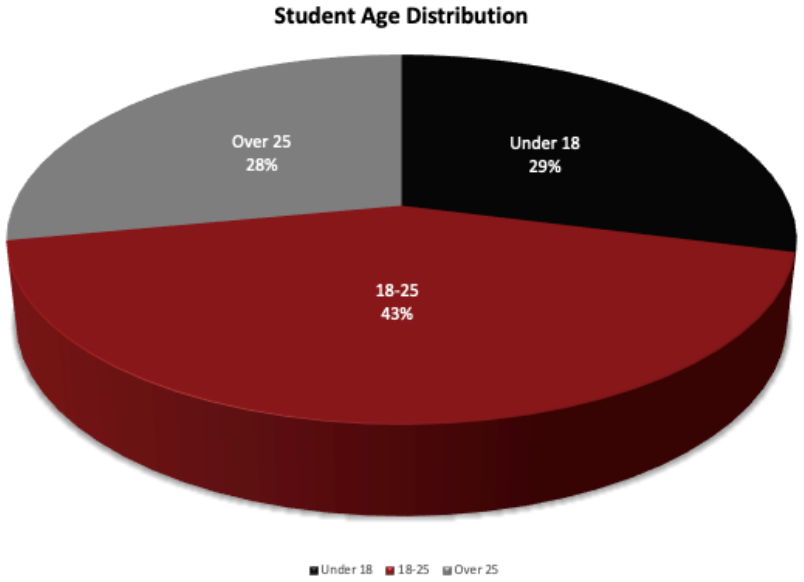
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How RRCC Fares

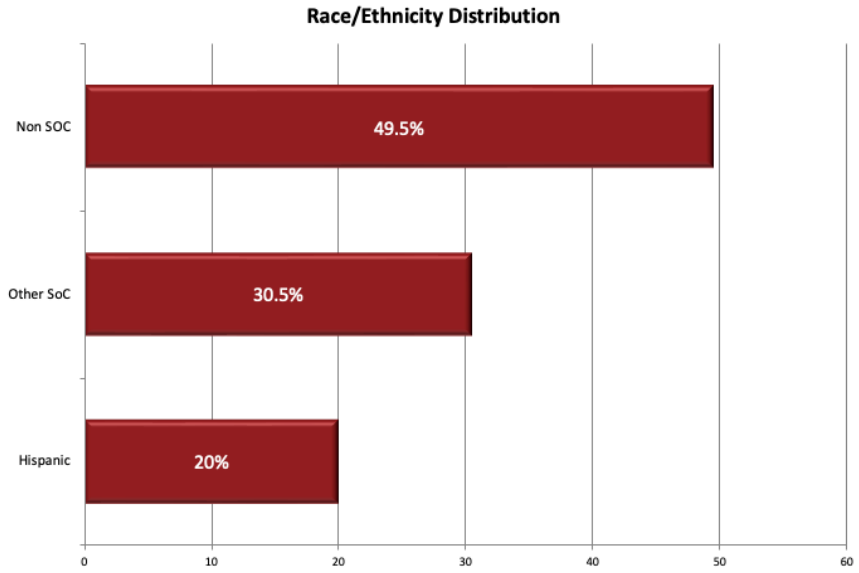
- Pandemic
- Counter-cyclical to the economy
- No demographic cliff - YET

Enrollment Summary

- **Overall – 12,000+ students**



- **Student Background**
  - First generation – 35.5%
  - Military/Veterans – 3.9% (427)
  - Pell eligible – 31%



Enrollment Goals

- Diversified enrollment portfolio
  - 1/3 concurrent enrollment (CE)
  - 1/3 18-24
  - 1/3 over 25 years old
- Expand customized and continuing education
- Increase CE in Title 1 schools
- Increased geographic reach in all 4 counties (Gilpin, Clear Creek, Park, and Jefferson)
- Grow online offerings
- Match student enrollment with local demographic trends

Cost of Higher Education

- Total Cost (residential):
  - 4 year public average - $108,584
  - 4 year private average - $234,512

- Student Debt
  - Average student loan amount in the US is $38,375. Total amount is $1.63 trillion. This has tripled since 2007.
  - Average student loan debt is $37,853.

Source: Educationdata.org

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Cost of Higher Education

- Tuition & Fees:
  - University of Denver - $63k/year ($252k total)
  - CU - $15k/year ($60k total)
  - RRCC - $5k/year ($10k for 2 years or $20k for 4)

- Student Debt at RRCC (since 2017-18)
  - Total number of student loan borrowers: **6,740**
  - Total unduplicated headcount: **50,454**
  - % of students who did not borrow: **86.6%**
  - Average loan amount borrowed: **$3,455.66**

Federal Level Changes

- Workforce Pell Grants
- Pressure to dismantle DEI programs
- Elimination of or Cuts to Federal Programs
  - CCAMPIS - Child care grants for student parents
  - TRiO - Support for first generation students
  - Grants – Education, labor, NSF, etc
  - Federal student aid
  - SNAP, Medicaid, and childcare
  - Career and Technical Education
  - Adult education

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How RRCC Could Be Impacted

- Federal Pell
  - Tuition is lower than the Pell cap
  - Workforce (short-term) Pell

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
  - Community colleges are open admissions and serve all who come to us
  - Our mission is to serve the community and does not change
  - We will continue to innovate to ensure all individuals can be successful

How RRCC Could Be Impacted

- Elimination of or Cuts to Federal Programs
  - CCAMPIS – loss of about $40k a semester (10 students)
  - TRiO – loss of $200k a year (140 students)
  - SNAP – increased pressure on our food pantry
  - Medicaid – increased pressure on our health clinic and mental health service
  - Federal student aid – impact on federal work student
  - Career & Technical Ed – fewer skill-based programs to meet employer needs; less ability to keep equipment and facilities relevant
  - Adult education – 30,000 Jeffco residents without a high school diploma

Colorado Realities

- Special Session – August 21
- $1.2 billion projected shortfall
- By 2031 –
  - 73% of all jobs will require some form of post-secondary training.
  - 20% will require a high school diploma.
  - 7% will be less than a high school diploma.
- Housing –
  - Median home prices are $441k. Median first-time home buyer age is 38. Was 28 in 1991.
  - Average pay needed to afford a 2-bedroom apartment is over $36/hour. Average renter makes $26/hour. It would take $99 hours a week at minimum wage to afford the average rent.
- Unemployment – 4.2% in May. 4.5% in June.
- Minimum wage - $18.81

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How RRCC is Responding

- Keeping Costs Low
  - 3.5% tuition increase ($6.00/credit increase)
  - Open Educational Resources (OER)
- New Enrollment Strategies
  - Evening adult student programs with Warren Tech
  - Nursing and bachelor degree options
  - Expanding concurrent enrollment into 4 county area
- Community Partnerships
  - Action Center
  - Mi Casa

Additional Initiatives

- Opportunity Now – Aerospace and Quantum
- Arvada and Wheat Ridge campus expansion
- Employee compensation
- President’s Dream Grant



Economic Mobility and ROI

- Primary Focus – Transforming lives and strengthening communities

- Community College 3.0
  - 1.0 – open access
  - 2.0 – student success
  - 3.0 – upward economic mobility and improved transfer

- Top occupations in demand in CO –
  - Nurses, software developers, skill trades, medical services, project management
  - 5 of the top 10 located at community colleges

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Programmatic Offerings







- **RRCC offers 125 degrees and 285 certificates from 65 programs**
  - **Allied Health**
    (physician's assistant, nursing, sonography, rad tech, medical assisting)
  - **First Responder**
    (police, fire, EMS/paramedic)
  - **Computer Science**
    (cyber, network technician, secure software, game development, web design, etc.)
  - **Business and Accounting**
  - **Liberal Arts**
  - **Visual, Studio, and Performing Arts**
  - **Skill trades**
    (electrician, plumbing, HVAC, fine woodworking, carpentry)
  - **Science, Engineering, and Mathematics**

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Unique Offerings



- **Bachelor's degrees**
  - Water Quality Management
  - Secure Software Development
  - Cyber Security
  - Business Administration
  - Sonography
  - (future) Nursing
  - (future) Teacher Licensure
  - (future) Behavioral Health
- **Master's degrees**
  - Physician's Assistant

Partnerships with K-12 Partners



JEFFCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WARREN TECH

Gilpin County School District RE-1

CLEAR CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1

Best Educators. Empowered Learners. Visionary District.

Partnerships with Local Industry

- Opportunity Now Grant
- SBDC and Entrepreneurship
- Apprenticeships for cyber security and ECE
- Manufacturing and machining
- Project Management Professional (PMP)
- Customized training



Transfer Pathways

MINES Academy »
at Red Rocks Community College

➢ Mines Academy

- RRCC transfers more students to Colorado School of Mines than any other college in the nation.
- In the 2021–2022 academic year, 27.4% of RRCC graduates transferred to Colorado School of Mines.

➢ Degrees with Designation

(Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreements)

- Biology AS
- Business AA
- Communication AA
- Computer Science AS
- Criminal Justice AA
- Early Childhood Teacher Education AA
- Economics AA
- Elementary Teacher Education AA
- English AA
- French AA
- Geology AS
- History AA
- Journalism AA
- Mathematics AS
- Philosophy AA
- Physics AS
- Political Science AA
- Psychology AA
- Psychology AS
- Public Health AA
- Sociology AA
- Spanish AA
- Studio Art AA
- Theatre AA

➢ Bridge to Bachelors

(*Personalized advising, early university advising, scholarships, seamless transfer*)

- Colorado Mesa University
- Colorado State University
- University of Colorado
- Fort Lewis College
- Metropolitan State University
- Regis University
- Western Colorado University

***Individual agreements with certain universities for specific programs**

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Community College Stigma

- Viewed as:
  - Less than
  - 13th grade
  - Last choice
  - Go to if you fail at a university
- Choose to see community colleges as:
  - Local
  - Affordable
  - Career-aligned
  - Application-based curriculum
  - High ROI

- Dinner table conversations

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Questions?

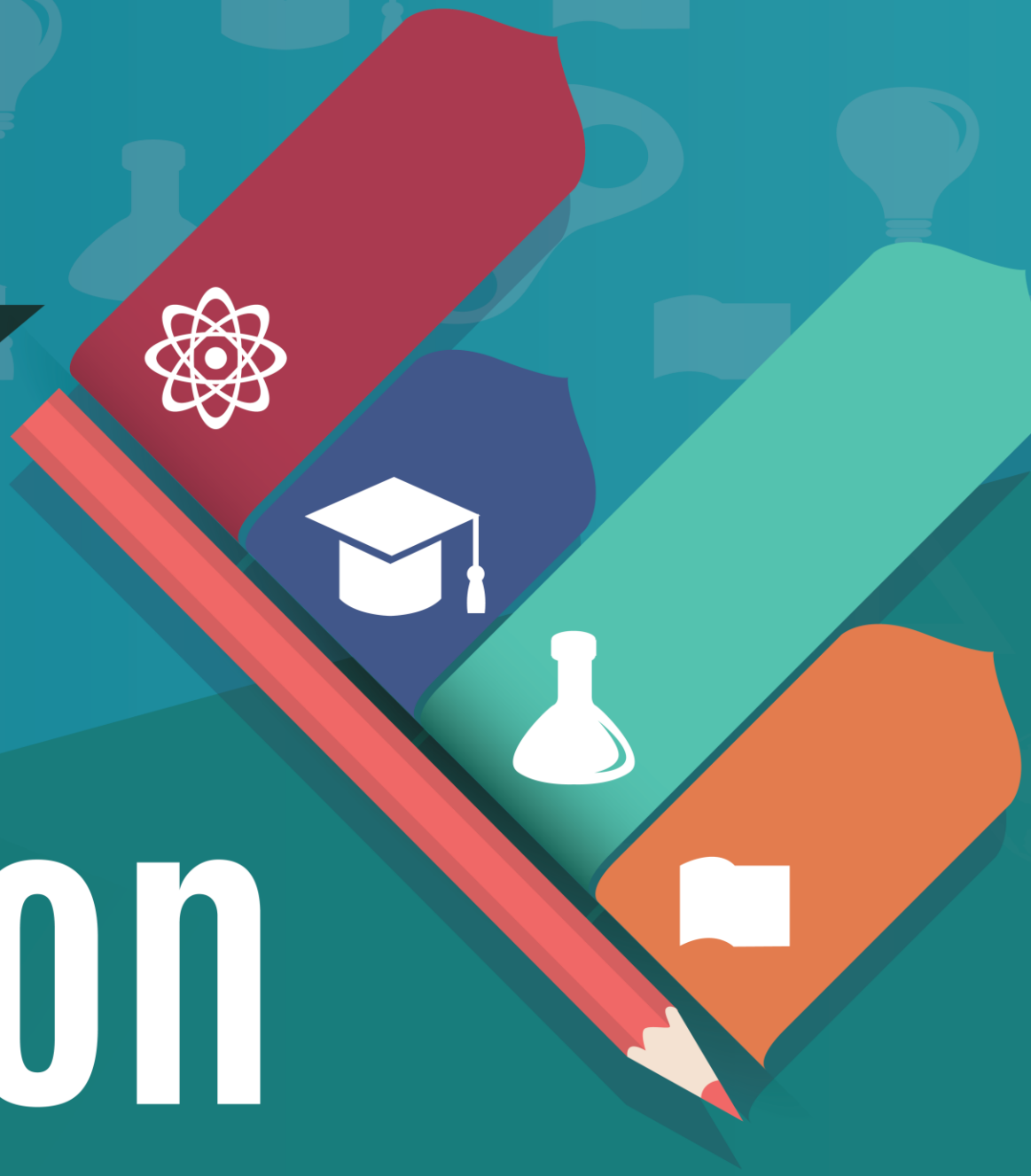
landon.pirius@rrcc.edu
303-914-6205

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2025 Community Impact Forums

Panel Discussion

Superintendent Tracy Dorland
Jefferson County Schools

Dr. Landon Pirius
Red Rocks Community College President

Friday, October 17, 2025

State of the Region



GREATER ARVADA
Chamber of Commerce

Save the Date



Nominations are Open for the "Arvada Future 20" List to Recognize Young Outstanding Professionals

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Chamber of Commerce

arvadachamber.org/Future20



Volunteers and Sponsors Needed for Second-Annual Day of Service on October 3, 2025

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Chamber of Commerce

arvadachamber.org/DayofService

linktr.ee/arvadachamber

- Chamber Networks
- Events calendar
- Social media
- Email newsletter
- Blog

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