

# Attacks on DCSD Ignore the FACTs

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DCSD Board Member (2015-2019)

Speak for DCSD <https://www.facebook.com/SPEAKforDCSD/>  
(3/1/2022)

Reposting after seeing continued (weak) attacks on the DCSD FB page and other pages.

Please copy and paste (and print copies) this information to your notes. When you see misinformation or generalized attacks that the last board was a “failure” and/or the district was “failing” please share.

We need to inform the public that these are false claims. Pick a few that are important to you to be able to discuss in conversation with neighbors.

***After a decade of failed and costly “reform” the 2017-2021 Board of Education - alongside educators, Administrators, staff, students, parents, and the community - made valuable educational and fiscally responsible change.***

## HIGHLIGHTS

1. Developed a [Strategic Plan](#) with community, employee, parent, and student input. [Created measurable outcomes](#) and a phased integration for best success of the plan.
2. Refocused district priorities to best education practices.
3. 91.2% graduation rate. Highest in Denver metro in 2020.
4. Passed the first [Bond/MLO in over a decade](#).
5. Added [counselors](#) to every neighborhood school.
6. Added [Career and Tech](#) Ed programming as requested by the business community, students, and families.
7. Added [college course programming](#).
8. Took two years to develop an [Equity Policy](#) with experts and the community’s input.
9. Made desperately needed building updates in ALL neighborhood schools and adding security to all schools, including charters.
10. Gave employees a meaningful raise (2 step process) for the first time in years. Began working through the costly failed salary band experiment to develop a [financially sustainable pay system](#) that honors expertise, experience, and academic achievement.
11. Worked on and outlined legislative priorities at the state level.
12. Systematically reviewed DCSD policy to ensure they are within state guidelines so the district doesn’t get sued for being out of compliance.
13. The unpaid BOE worked from 2017-2021 to clean up the reform year’s messes and put DCSD back on track to educational excellence.

For further information, please visit the tabs on the first page of the [district website](#).  
The Report Card for Douglas County School District (2018-2021 school board).

## **ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT**

1. Maintained consistent Reading/English Language Arts (ELA) scores in light of the evolving challenges during a global pandemic for the past 18 months. DCSD CMAS English Language Arts scores are higher than state averages in all grades, and remain similar to previous years' data.
2. CMAS mathematics scores are higher than state averages in all grades, and 2nd highest in comparison to the surrounding school districts.
3. The 2021 SAT and PSAT Scores show that DCSD continued to be the 2nd best among school districts at Greater Metro Denver, and above state average in light of the evolving challenges during a global pandemic.
4. We gradually restored Academic Excellence that was damaged during the 8 years (2009-2017) of the "Reform" experiment. Even during the pandemic, DCSD improved to rank #2 in Math, Reading and Writing.
5. DCSD continued to maintain highest graduation rate in the Denver Metro (91.2% in 2020; increase from 83.1% in 2010).
6. The class of 2021 earned more than \$116,000,000 in scholarships; Additionally, students and families saved over \$3,000,000 in college coursework due to concurrent enrollment credit and more due to AP credit.
7. Charter Schools: In 2018, Enhanced safety and security systems, and addressed urgent capital repairs as allowable by Colorado state law. This was the first time that DCSD charter schools were included in a bond and MLO.
8. DCSD was in-person before other comparable districts.

## **MENTAL HEALTH**

1. DCSD increased the [counselor to students ratio](#) in secondary schools to 1 per 250 students and now has a [full-time counselor in every elementary school](#).
2. DCSD is recognized by school districts across Colorado for having one of the strongest ratios of counselors to students in the state.
3. DCSD received \$120,000, from Centura Health & United Healthcare, to expand district's suicide prevention program.

## **DCSD SCHOOL BOARD**

1. In 2018 the DCSD Board of Education Directors [gained community approval](#) of the first MLO and Bond in 12 years to support all of our schools, students, and staff. This included passing through 100% of the MLO to charter schools and strengthening physical security in all our schools.
2. Since 2017 our Board has approved over \$65,000,000 in compensation increase to DCSD staff, rectifying pay freezes, pay gaps and disparities created by a misguided market-based pay system.
3. Our school board has remained nonpartisan.

## **DCSD EMPLOYMENT**

1. Douglas County School District ranked 20 out of 60 nominated for Forbes Best In-State Employer of 2021.
2. Forbes Magazine's 2021 ranking of Best Employers for women. DCSD was ranked #52 overall and 3rd highest among school districts in the United States.
3. Teacher retention in DCSD has improved from a turnover of 19.04% in 2015-2016 to 13.7% in 2020-2021. (The national average for turnover is 16%.)

## **PROPERTY OWNERS**

1. DCSD has been restoring performance to Douglas County school and property values are starting to recover their "good schools' premium relative to the rest of the Denver Metro area (2018-2021).
2. "Douglas County School District, the third largest district in Colorado, serves students in the Castle Rock area through 89 Schools, including 18 charter schools and five alternatives schools. The district ranks high in terms of academics and college prep, with a graduation rate of 91.2% in 2020 and an average student to teacher ratio of 19:1. It is considered the second-best school district in Colorado when it comes to athletic programs, with a wide variety of other clubs, activities and programs offered as well." - Gowler Homes