

POINTS OF PRIDE >

D51's First-Ever Gifted Dancer



Kaitlynn Olds
Bookcliff Middle School

National Merit Commended Students

Jordan Dehmel, Catherine Fletcher, Jadyne Heil, Emily Leane
Fruita Monument High

Madeline Mohler, Ashton Steed, Jessica Warner
Palisade High School

FBLA Nationals Top 10 Finalists



Kade Bessert
Fruita Monument High School

Dean Withers
Grand Junction High School

2021 Boettcher Scholars

Gabriela Reitz
Palisade High School
Davian Sandoval
Central High



2021 Daniels Scholars



Magdalena Latek
Palisade High School
Jennasea Licata
Palisade High School

National School Nurse Certification



Katie McKew
D51 Nursing Coordinator

Western Colorado Latino Chamber of Commerce Rich Lopez Award

Recipient



Monica Heptner
Dual Immersion Academy Principal

A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT SIRKO >

We are off to an excellent start with the 2021-22 school year! It's hard to believe we are already past the first quarter and getting ready for an election, holiday breaks, and the unveiling of a new Strategic Plan for our district (see page 4). I want to thank each one of our staff members for your continued dedication to students. You make D51 a great place to be, and I appreciate you all!

I also want to thank our parents and guardians for trusting us with your most precious asset - your children - day in and day out. Thank you for working with us to keep our schools and community safe places to learn and grow. Please enjoy this State of our Schools report!

Diana



MEET OUR NEWEST SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER >



DR. SHOLTES
District B

Name: Kari Sholtes

Occupation: Assistant Professor of Teaching, University of Colorado Boulder and Colorado Mesa University Partnership

Education: PhD in Environmental Engineering, Bachelors of Science in Civil Engineering
University of Colorado - Boulder
Masters of Science in Environmental Engineering
University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
High School Diploma
Grand Junction High School

D51 BY THE NUMBERS >

21,407 Students

2,787 Teachers & Staff

1,520 Licensed Staff

1,124 Support Staff

143 Administrative Staff



47 Schools

25 elementary schools

8 middle schools

4 comprehensive high schools

1 middle/high school

3 charter schools

2 alternative high schools

3 K-12 schools

1 vocational school program

CAREER & COLLEGE READINESS >

Career and College Readiness is a big umbrella of opportunities for every student in District 51. Many D51 high school students prepare for college by taking advantage of our Early Scholars program that allows students to take college classes on the Colorado Mesa University campus. They can also earn college credits through the High School Scholars program by taking college courses on their high school campus.

With about one in three students graduating high school with college credit already earned, D51 is preparing students for college, but also for their future careers. Through a partnership with WCCC and CMU, our Technical Scholars program offers opportunities for D51 students to explore programs like aviation technology, culinary arts, fire science, and land surveying. Another program, called P-TECH, allows students to earn an associate's free of charge in programs like mechatronics, pharmacy tech, vet tech and even construction management, to name a few of the programs available.

District 51 makes earning college credit easy by providing transportation between our four largest high schools and WCCC, as well as the D51 Career Center. As a result, many



1 in 3

D51 students graduate with college credit

students take advantage of these opportunities. Last year alone, our high school students earned 274 industry credits and 161 certificates in 17 programs. In addition, we had our first-ever P-TECH graduate, Jacob Strum. He earned both his high school diploma and an associate's in machining, setting himself up for a successful career.

Younger students can participate in the WCCC Summer Camps to explore many of the same programs in which they can earn credits when they get to high school. This past summer, a record number of 1,500-plus students participated in 100 summer WCCC camps! GVT provided free passes for all middle school and high school students to help them participate in the camps.

Concurrent programs through all of our high schools aided our students in receiving over 8,000 credit hours last year! Concurrent programs help increase our graduation rates and offer innovative and specialized opportunities for all of our students. Concurrent programming will bring new opportunities to D51 schools in the years to come.

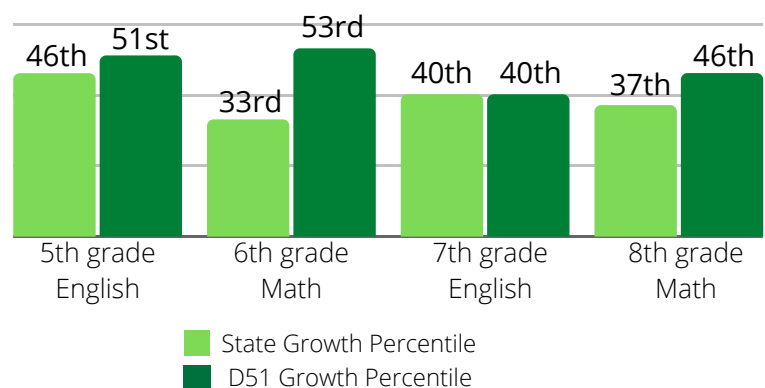
Not sure where to start? Contact your school counselor to start the conversation about your future. ♦

D51 OUTPACES STATE CMAS GROWTH >

District 51 students surpassed the state average in growth on Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) testing in both math and English Language Arts this spring. That means D51 students grew more in their knowledge than the average Colorado student between the time they took CMAS tests in 2019 to the time when they took CMAS tests in 2021. CMAS Growth is measured in percentiles as a comparison to the state average, adjusted for the year off (2020).

Student growth is a celebration not just for our children and their families but the many educators and other staff who made it a priority to prevent learning loss and get students back on track after remote learning in the fourth quarter of the 2019-20 school year. While other districts struggled with the challenges of going in and out of online learning last year, District 51 was the largest school district in Colorado to stay open for the entire 2020-21 school year.

Most District 51 schools offered both CMAS math and English Language Arts testing in grades 3-8, but the state only required CMAS math testing in grades 4, 6, and 8 and CMAS English Language Arts testing in grades 3, 5, and 7 this spring. As a result, the Colorado Department of Education only measured growth for math in grades 6 and 8 and for ELA in grades 5 and 7 (grades 3 and 4 were too young to take CMAS tests in 2019). Results are in the graph below. ♦



BOND MEASURE >

Replacing Grand Junction High School has been a top priority for the District 51 Board of Education for several years. While the D51 Maintenance Department has spent decades fixing cracks and other problems in the building, the source of many of those issues - a sinking foundation - needs to be replaced with a modern foundation that will anchor the building to shale, rather than clay soil. The campus also has multiple buildings, which is a major security issue in the 21st century.

The school has already secured a \$10 million BEST (Building Excellent Schools Today) grant for a new GJHS from the state, but they can't use the grant unless the community comes up with the rest of the project funding this year. Nearly \$20 million remains from the 2017 Bond Measure due to bond premiums and some projects coming in under budget. The School Board has placed a bond measure on the Nov. 2 ballot requesting the remaining \$115 million of the project cost.

Visit d51schools.org/resources/bond_and_mill to learn more about the 2021 bond measure. ♦



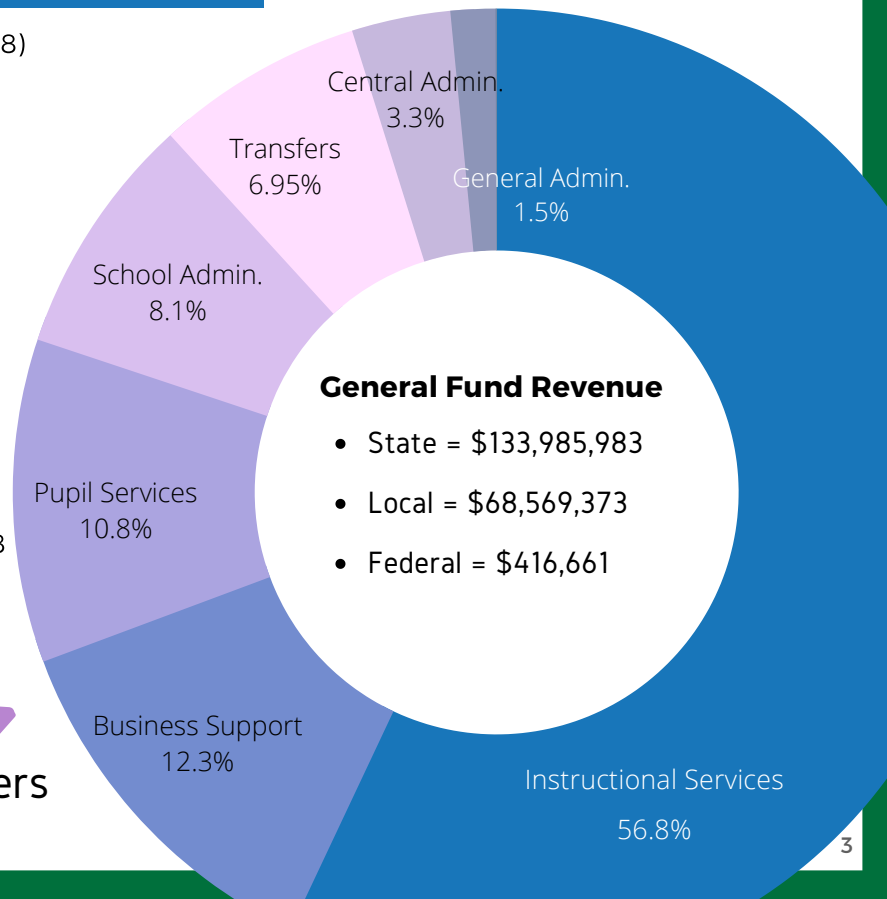
Nisley students explore their new Sensory Room, made possible by a grant from Alpine Bank and the D51 Foundation.

2021-2022 ADOPTED BUDGET >

General Fund Expenditures/Transfers (\$201,522,378)

- Instructional Services = \$114,766,264
- Business Support Services = \$24,788,114
- Pupil Support Services = \$21,820,964
- School Administration Support Services = \$16,324,463
- Transfers to/from other funds, such as charter schools, capital projects, insurance, and physical activities = \$14,004,984
- Central Support Services (3.5%) = \$6,739,199
- General Administrative Support (1.5%) = \$3,013,658
- Community Services, Other Support Services (0.04%) = \$64,732

General Fund Expenditures & Transfers



General Fund Revenue

- State = \$133,985,983
- Local = \$68,569,373
- Federal = \$416,661

FINANCE AWARD >



This is the 23rd consecutive year that District 51 has earned a top recognition for excellence in financial reporting, demonstrating the district's deep commitment to transparency and responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

The Government Finance Officers Association has consistently awarded District 51 the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. Earning this award time and time again confirms that District 51 continues to exemplify excellence in ensuring that taxpayer dollars are maximized for the benefit of our students. The district's financial annual report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the association's program including, demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate the financial story of School District 51.

COVID TESTING >

D51 is partnering with the state to bring Binax rapid tests to each school. The tests provide results in just 15 minutes, and any adult student or staff member or student with parental permission can take one after filling out an online form. There are two types of testing one can opt into: 1) testing for students and staff who develop symptoms at school, and 2) weekly testing for those who volunteer. To learn more, visit d51schools.org/resources/covid-19. ♦

STRATEGIC PLAN >



A steering committee of parents, students, community members, and D51 staff is meeting this fall to draft a Strategic Plan that will guide the course of the district over the next three years. The committee is basing its work on input from across the district gathered at a series of listening sessions in February and March 2020 and five more listening sessions in September 2021. A big thank you to everyone who attended these meetings to make sure their voice was heard!

Having a Strategic Plan will help the district set measurable goals for district improvement and create a Graduate Profile that lists skills a student should have when they graduate from a D51 school in order to be successful in life. These skills will go beyond the graduation requirements of earning credits in math, English, science, and other subjects and look at elements of a student's character and abilities that will contribute to their postsecondary education, career, and life in general.

The Colorado Education Initiative (the organization facilitating the planning process) and the Strategic Plan Steering Committee will continue to meet in October and November in order to complete a draft of the Strategic Plan and Graduate Profile. They will present them to the board in December. ♦

Come to a Board Coffee!

**Nov. 13
9 a.m.**

**Colorado Mesa University
Center, Room 222**

More coffees scheduled for Dec. 18 and Jan. 15