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# A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Weld County School District RE-5J Johnstown-Milliken

# WE ARE LISTENING

[listen@weldre5j.org](mailto:listen@weldre5j.org)



Our schools are overcrowded.

We need new facilities.

Are our schools competitive?

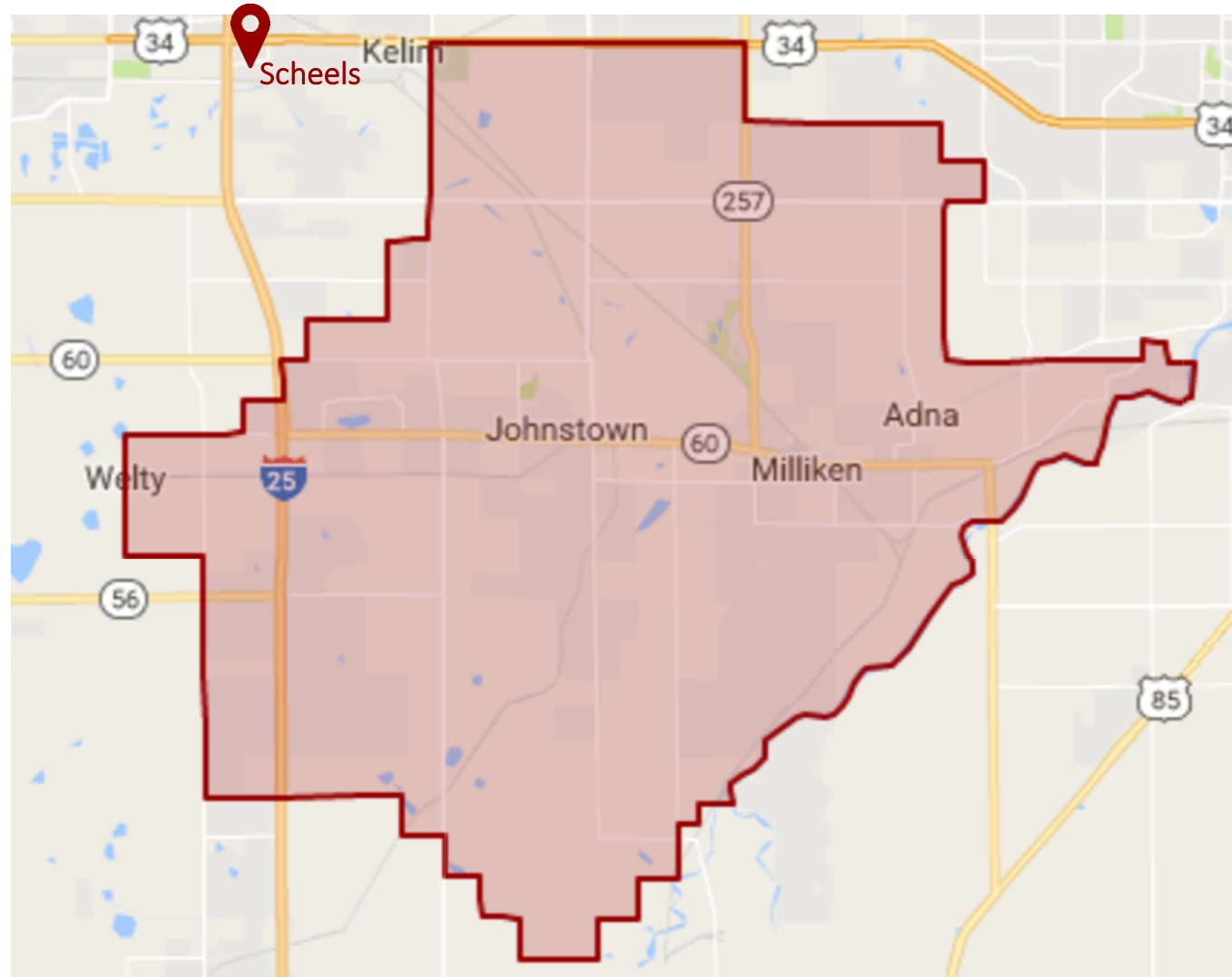
What's the district's vision for the future?



# DISTRICT OVERVIEW

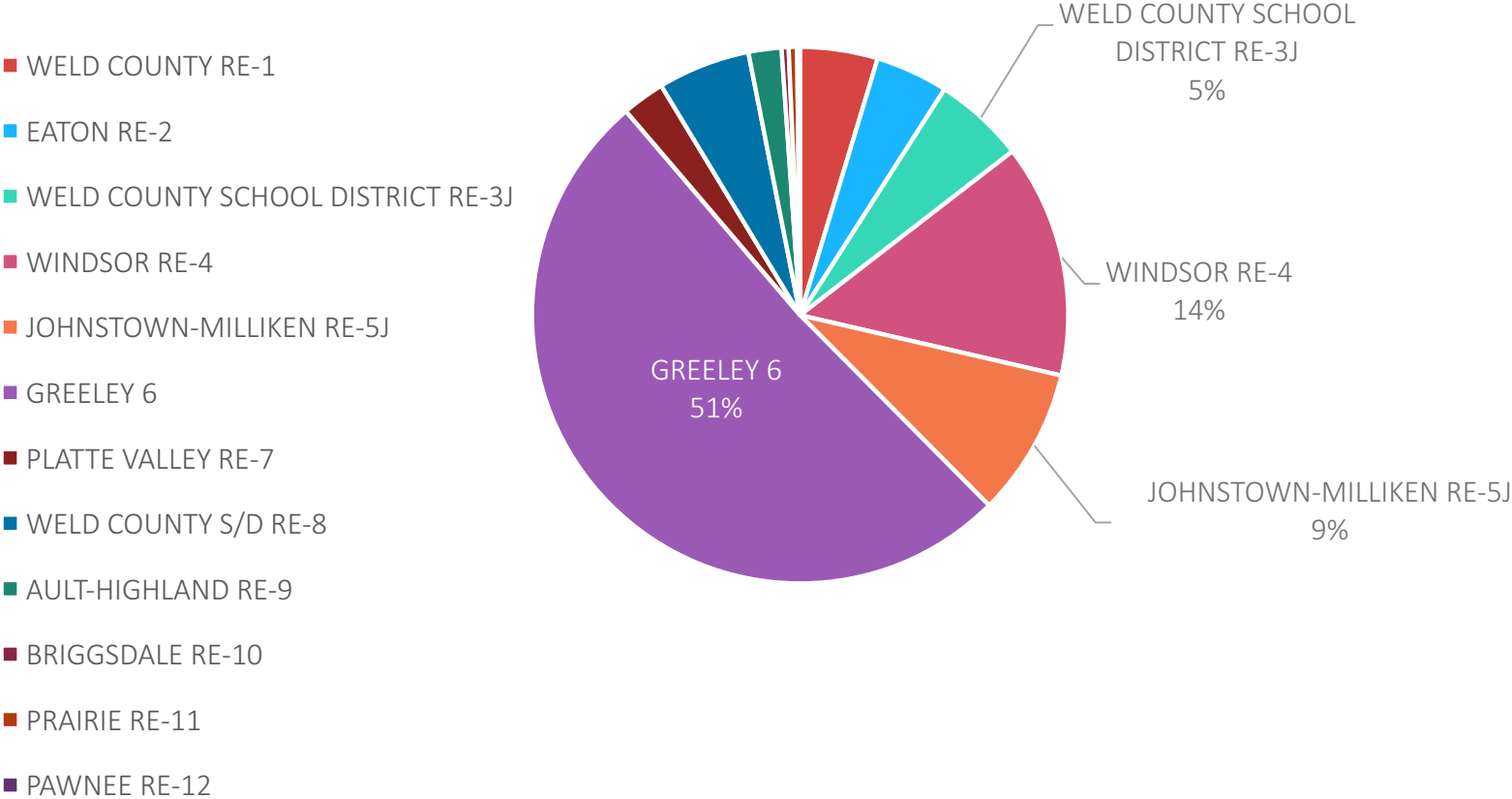
## BOUNDARIES

Johnstown Plaza, an 80-acre project that includes the Scheels store and 900,000 square feet of retail space is located in neighboring Thompson School District.



# DISTRICT OVERVIEW

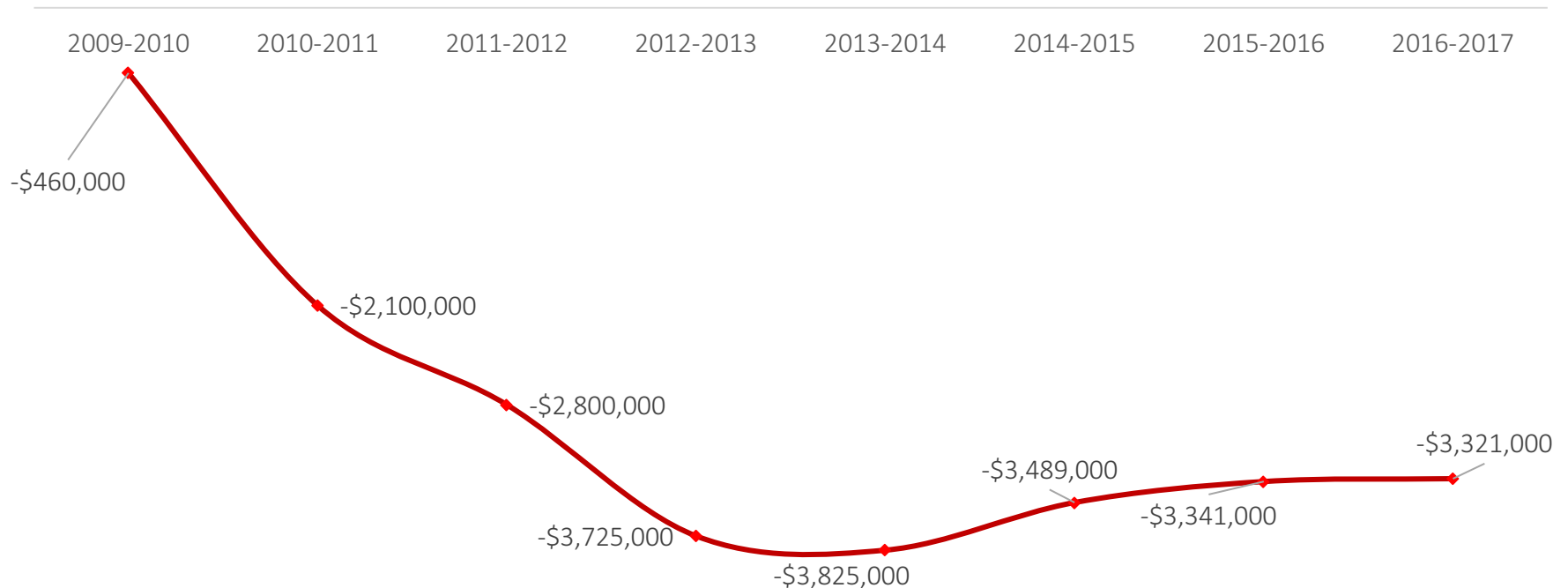
IN 2016-2017, WELD RE-5J SERVED 9% OF THE 42,872 STUDENTS IN WELD COUNTY.



# DISTRICT OVERVIEW

## FUNDING

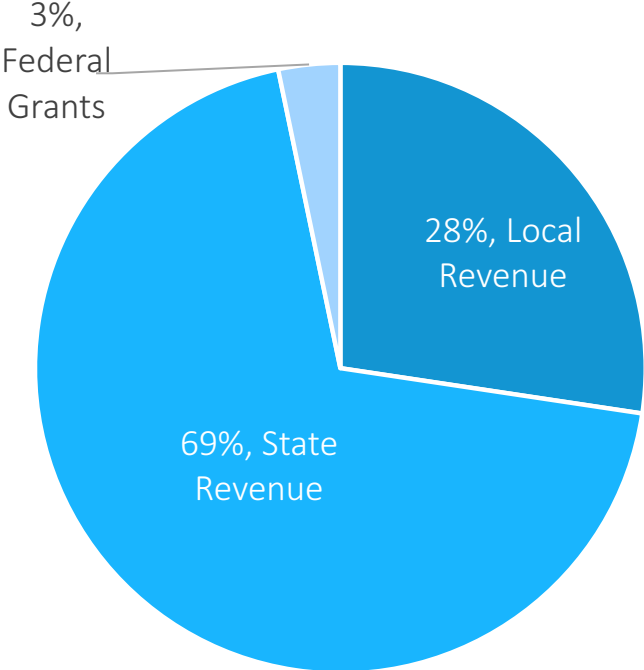
- Since 2009-2010, Weld RE-5J has lost a combined total of \$23 million to Colorado's budget-balancing tool, the negative factor.
- The \$3.3 million we lost this year alone, could have paid for an additional 48 teachers.\*
- By 2017-2018 the combined estimated amount the district will have lost to the negative factor (\$26.8 million) is almost enough to construct a new elementary school.



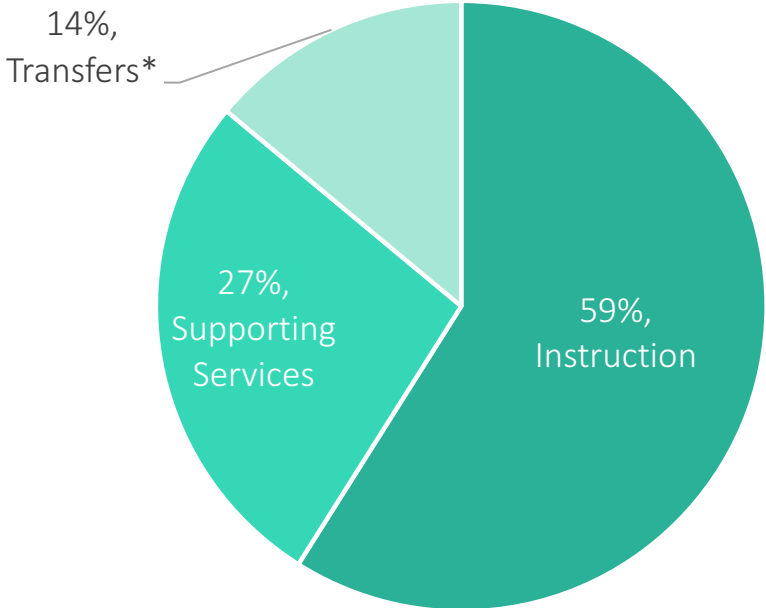
# DISTRICT OVERVIEW

## FUNDING

2015-2016 Total Revenue \$28M



2015-2016 Total Expenditures

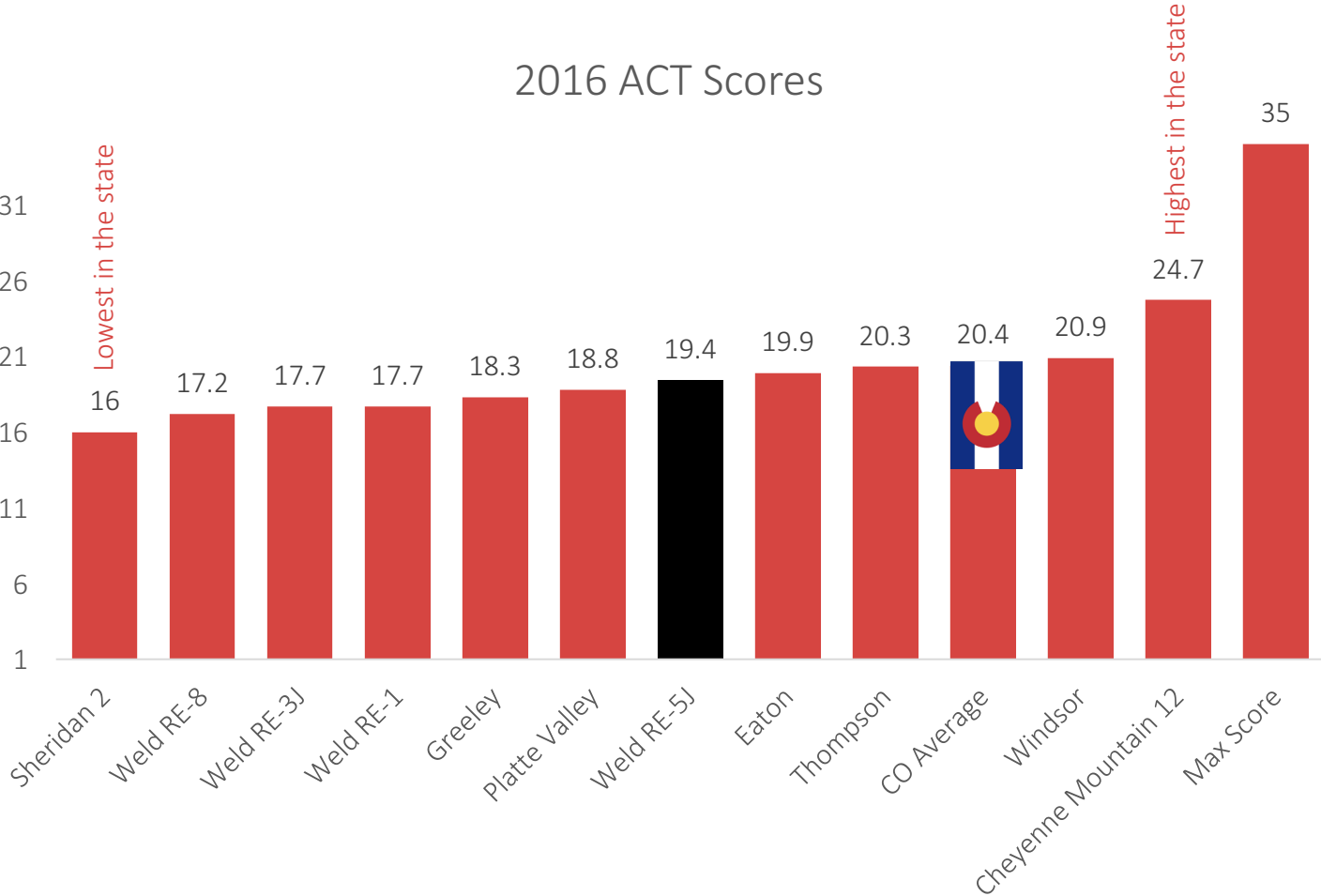


**Support Services Example**  
Every year, RE-5J spends just over **\$1M** on pupil transportation.

*\*Charter and other*

# DISTRICT OVERVIEW

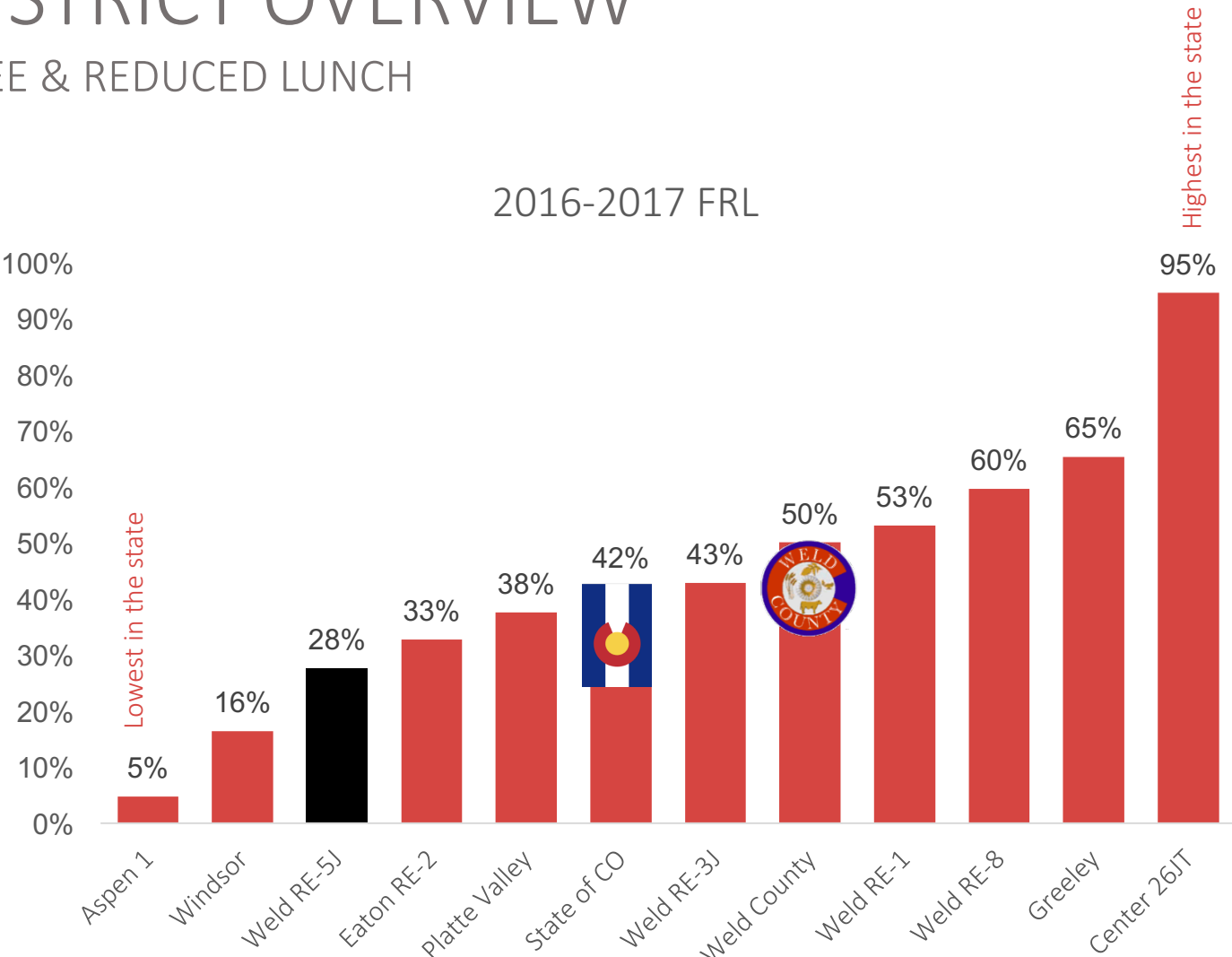
## ACT SCORES



# DISTRICT OVERVIEW

## FREE & REDUCED LUNCH

2016-2017 FRL

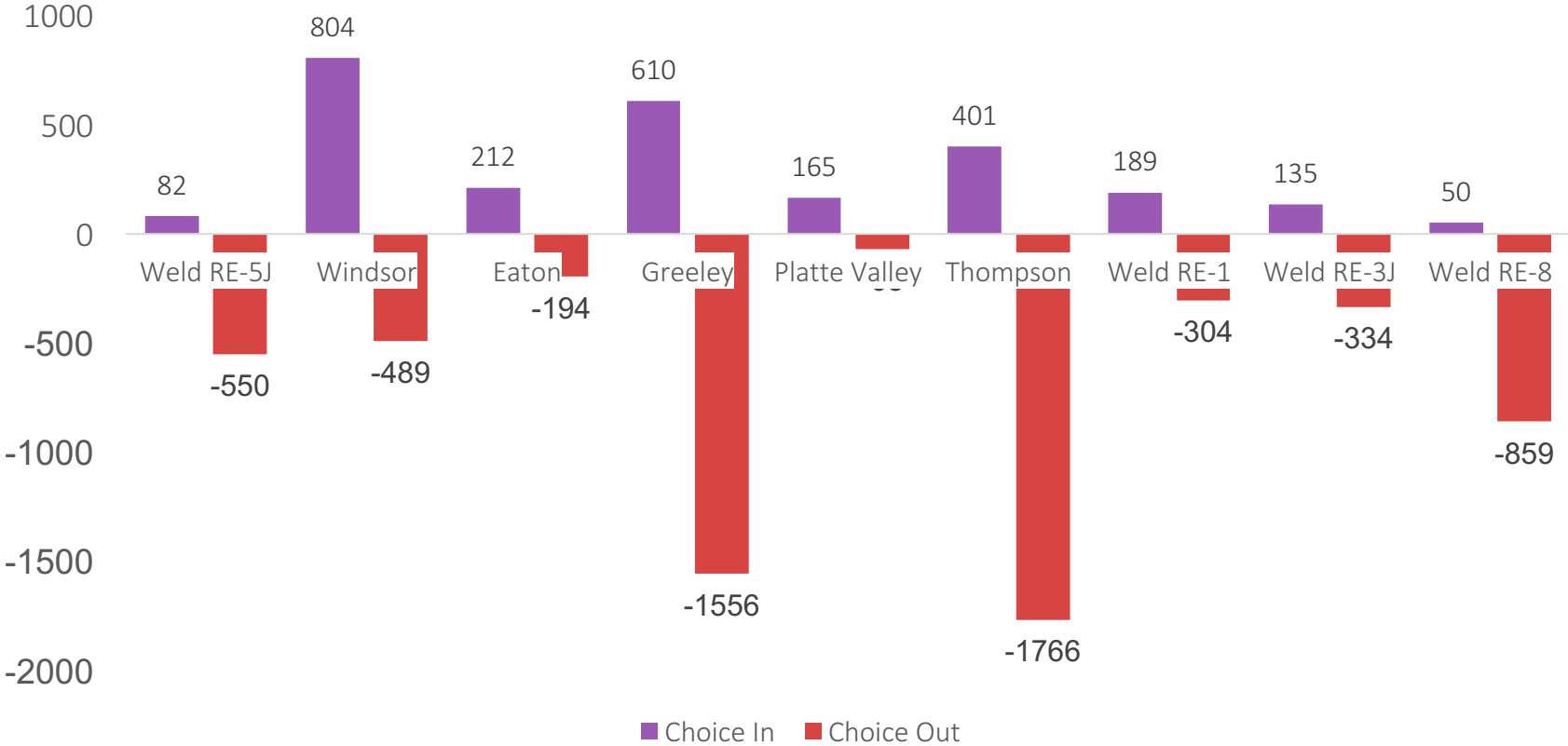




# DISTRICT OVERVIEW

## CHOICE DATA





2016-2017 CHOICE DATA



# DISTRICT OVERVIEW

## ENROLLMENT

IN 2016-2017, WELD RE-5J SERVED 3,792 STUDENTS IN 6 SCHOOLS.

	Building Capacity	2016-17 Enrollment	Construction to Increase Capacity
 High School	976	939	1996, 2004, 2007
 Middle School	928	720	1992, 1996, 2004
 Elementary Schools	2,028	1,729	2005, 2014(Pioneer Ridge)
 Charter School (K-8)	410	404	

# DISTRICT OVERVIEW

## CLASS SIZE

### 2016-17 Average Elementary Class Sizes

Milliken **22**

Letford **21**

Pioneer **23**

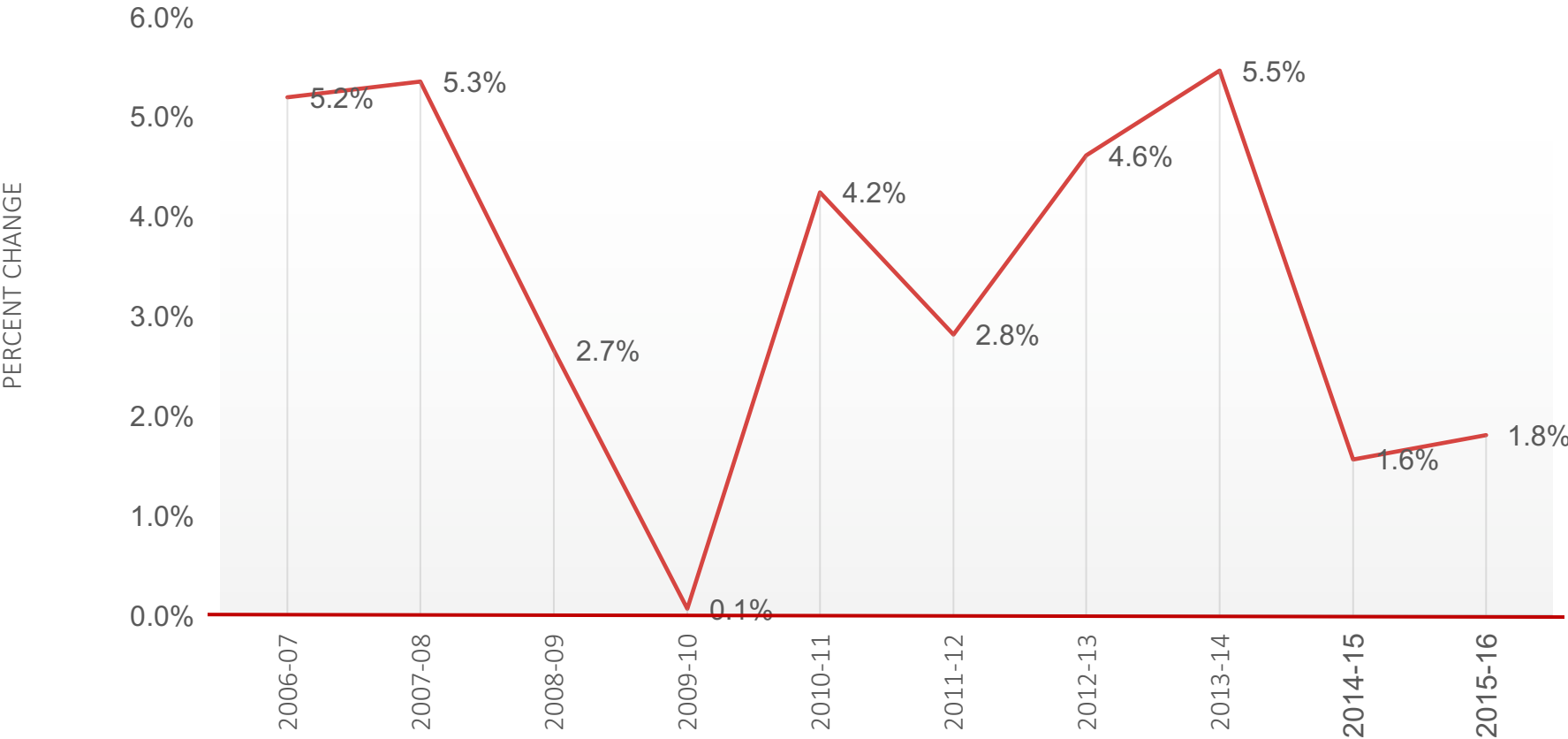
- Elementary classes in grades K, 1, 2, and 3 that reach an enrollment average of a true twenty-six (26) students or greater and maintain that enrollment for fifteen (15) consecutive school days, will receive an instructional aide for that grade level for the current school year only.
- Every effort will be made to keep elementary classes in grades 4 and 5 at a reasonable level of twenty-six (26) students.
- Middle school and high school class sizes will be averaged across every teacher's schedule, with the average not to exceed twenty-eight (28) students. The average will be computed by dividing the total number of students enrolled with a teacher by the number of class sections taught by that teacher.\*

*\*This language is based on a six (6) period day, with any single teacher's maximum student case load not exceeding 168 students, excepting choir and band courses.*

# DISTRICT OVERVIEW

## ENROLLMENT

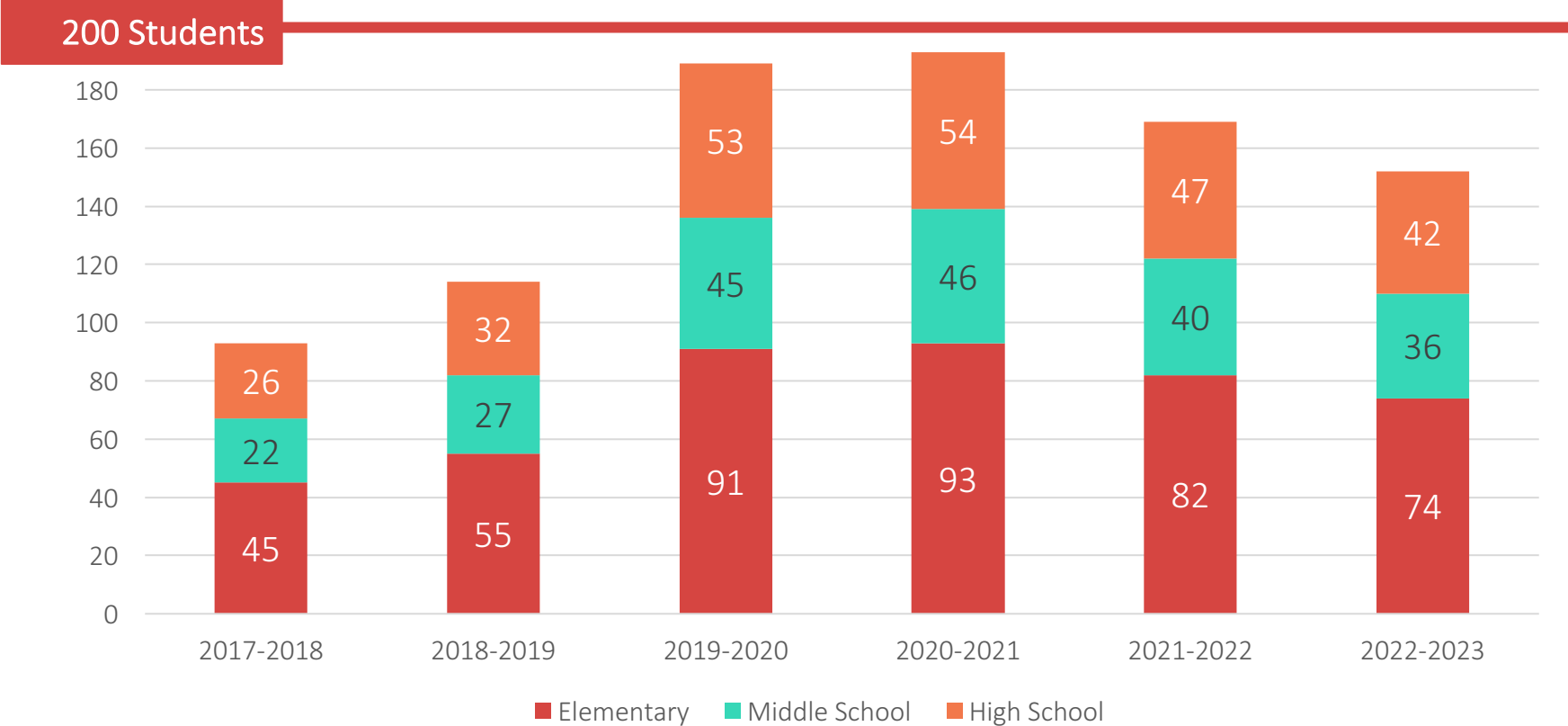
ANNUAL ENROLLMENT CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR



# DISTRICT OVERVIEW

## ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

Potential Additional Enrollment Each Year by School Level 2017-2022\*

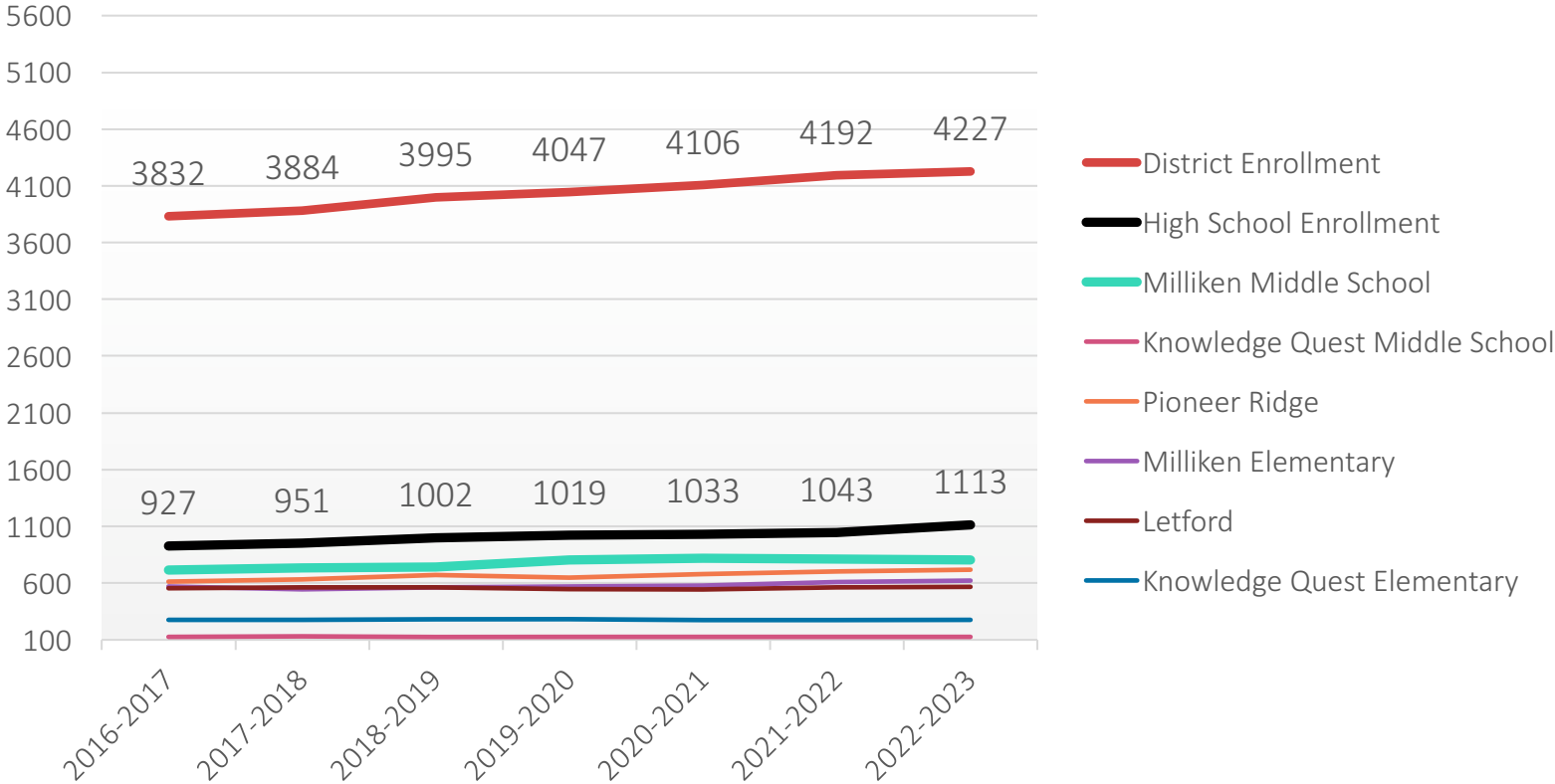


\*Based on development expectations

# DISTRICT OVERVIEW

## ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

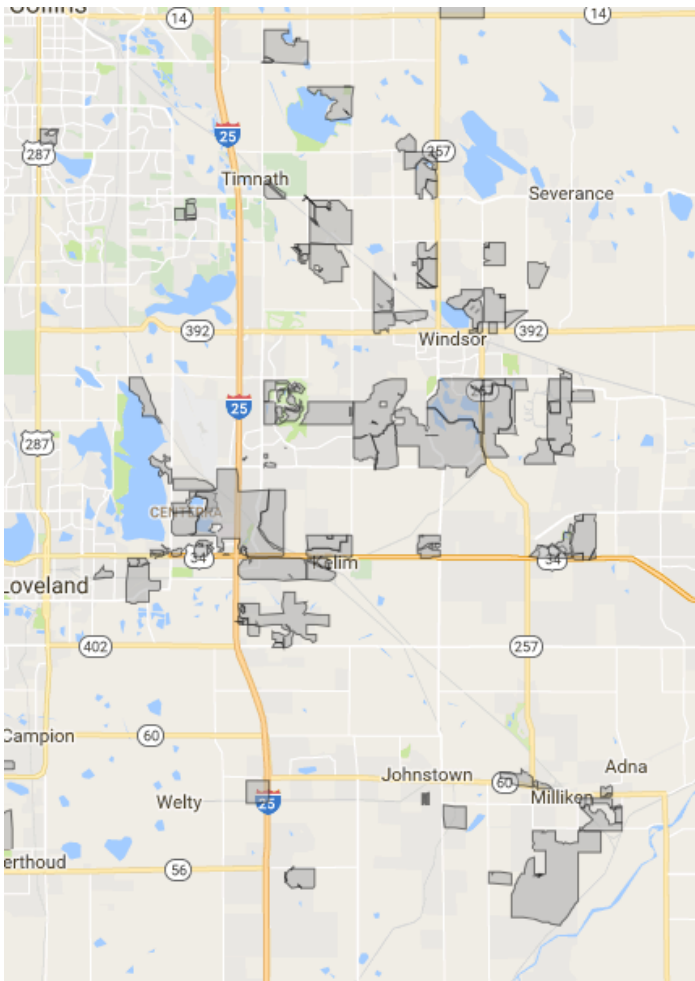
ENROLLMENT IN OUR DISTRICT IS VIRTUALLY FLAT – EXPECTED TO GROW ONLY 1.8% EVERY SCHOOL YEAR 2017-2022.



\*Based on development expectations

# DISTRICT OVERVIEW

## METRO DISTRICTS



Services typically provided by metro districts include:

- Parks and Recreation
- Sanitation Sewer and Storm Water Improvements
- Traffic and Safety Controls
- Street Improvements
- Water System Improvements
- Public Transportation
- Television Relay and Translation Systems
- Fiber Optic Communications Systems
- Mosquito Control
- Fire Protection

# FACILITIES

## ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS

- Visual studies of each school and site, by the architect and engineering team
- Documentation of existing facility conditions
- Cost analysis (repair or replace), by a general contractor (Adolfson & Peterson)
- Initial prioritization of assessment items



**\$116.6 MILLION**

Recommended maintenance and repairs to all district facilities (does not include new facilities)

**\$38 MILLION**

High priority maintenance and repairs

*Depending on the project, maintenance and repairs may take 1-2 school years to complete.*

## Year Built

Roosevelt	Milliken MS	Letford	Milliken ES	Pioneer Ridge	KQ Academy*
1967	1967	1954	1976	2005	2006



# FACILITIES

## NEW HIGH SCHOOL

	# of students	Cost
Hayden High School	886	\$76.2M
Severance High School	989	\$80.4M
Wellington High School	1,143	\$101.9M
Estimates for a new, 1,200-student high school in Weld RE-5J, are \$103.5M*		
Natrona County High School	1,669	\$140M
Thompson High School	1,600	\$140.3M
Prospect High School	1,686	\$151.M

According to the Colorado School Finance Project, last November, voters in 21 school districts in our state approved over \$3.2 billion in bond issues to build new schools and expand and improve others.

*\*Colorado School Finance Project*

# FACILITIES & PROGRAMS

## POTENTIAL MILL LEVY OVERRIDE FUNDING PRIORITIES

- Safety and security enhancements
- Class size relief districtwide
- Technology and curricular resource that enhance learning
- Enhanced college and career counseling services
- Full-day kindergarten
- Enhanced intervention programs
- Increased secondary elective options
- Increased concurrent enrollment and advanced placement options
- Enhanced districtwide gifted programming



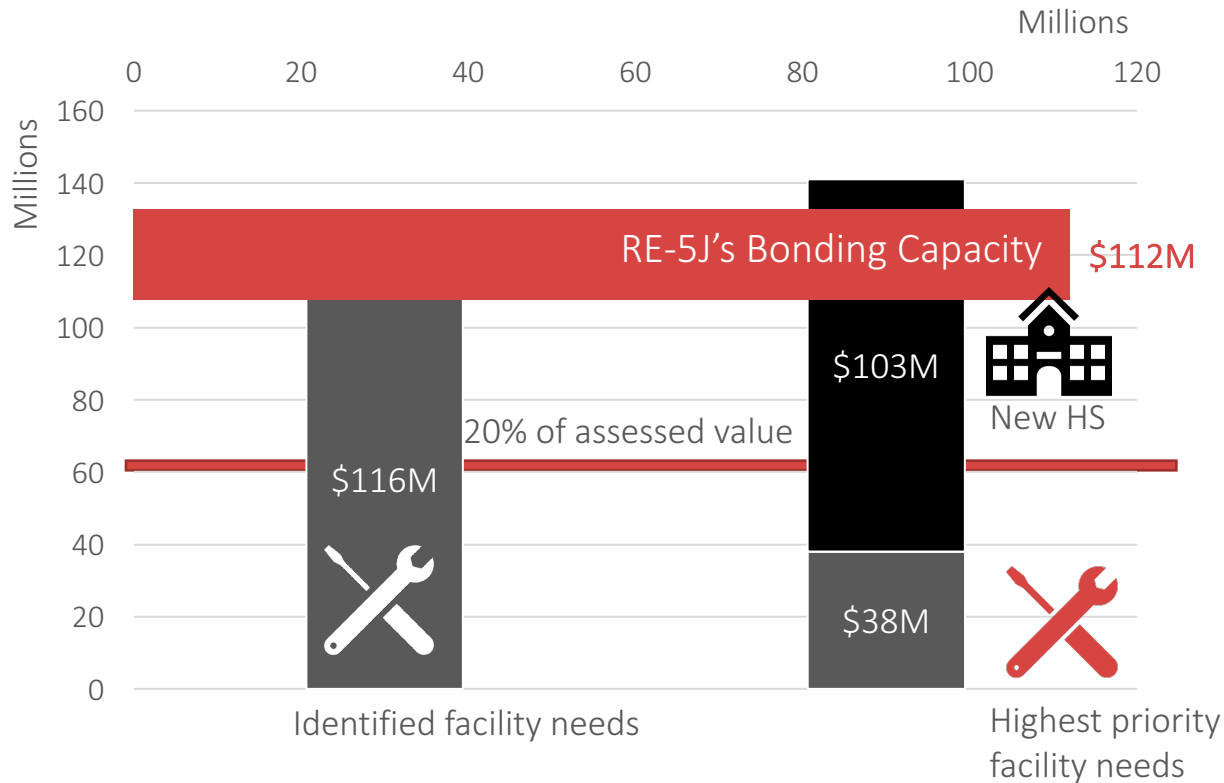
### **RE-5J'S AVAILABLE MILL LEVY OVERRIDE CAPACITY IS CURRENTLY \$6.7M**

- \$7.2M - 25% of \$28.8M total program (funding from school finance act formula)
- Current override \$500K

# FACILITIES & PROGRAMS

## BONDING CAPACITY

### Bonding Capacity V. Funding Needs



**\$122M MAXIMUM BONDING CAPACITY**

based on 6% actual value (Dec. 2016)

Current bonded debt ~\$10M

The most bond debt RE-5J can incur **\$112M**

# FACILITIES & PROGRAMS

## COST TO TAXPAYERS

Cost of a potential \$106.8M Bond & \$4M Mill Levy Override in Weld RE-5J



\$200,000 residential property value – additional \$411/year, total \$803/year for schools

\$200,000 commercial property value – additional \$1,655/year, total \$3,234/year for schools

In 2016, neighboring Weld RE-4 School District proposed a \$104.8M bond and a \$3.6M mill levy override in their community. The additional cost to taxpayers was estimated at:

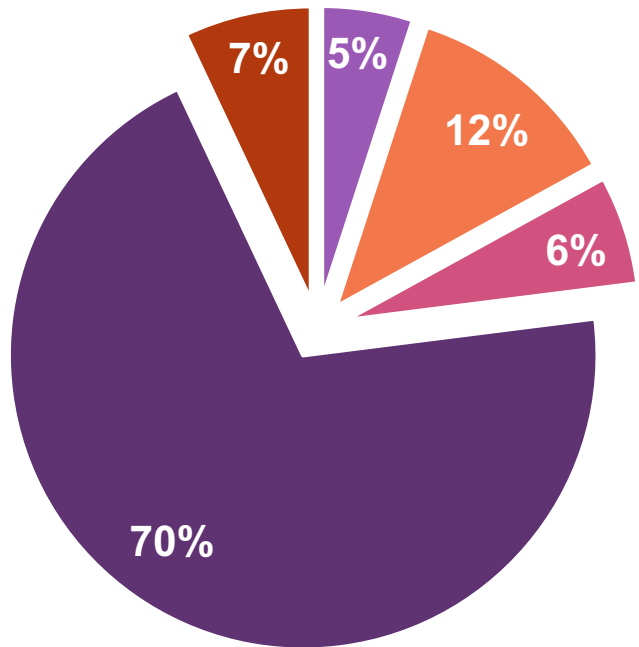


\$200,000 residential property value – additional \$136/year  
More residents and business owners to share the tax burden.

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- 915 total survey respondents\*
- 18% of respondents work for Weld RE-5J
- 76% of respondents are parents\*\*



- Community Members (n=43)
- Employees (n=105)
- Employees & Parents (n=57)
- Parents (n=643)
- Students (n=65)
- <1% no affiliation (2)

# WE ARE LISTENING

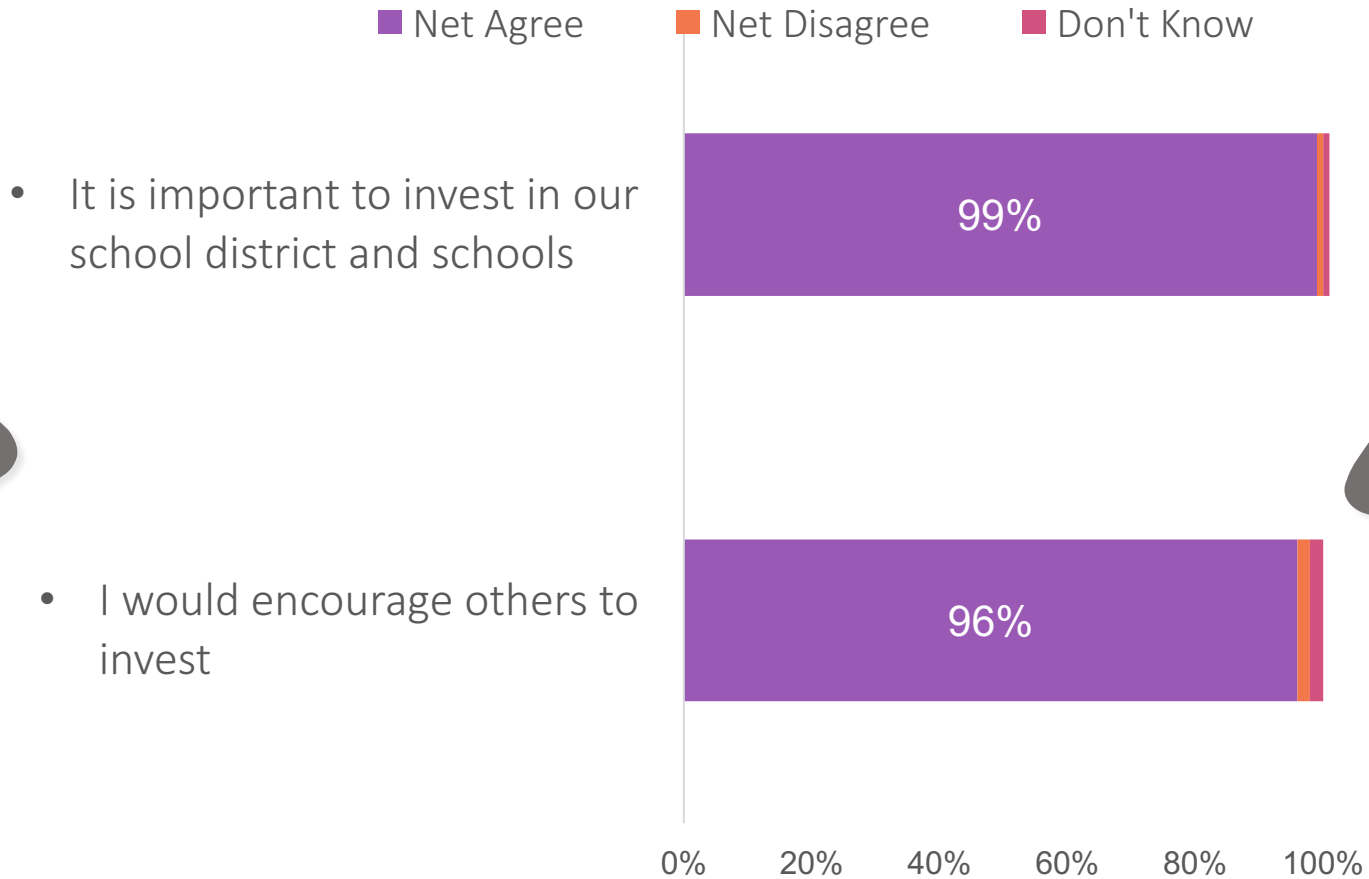
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## District Letter Grade

- 61% give the district an “A” (15%) or “B” (46%)
- 28% give the district a “C”
- 11% give the district a “D” (9%) or “F” (2%)

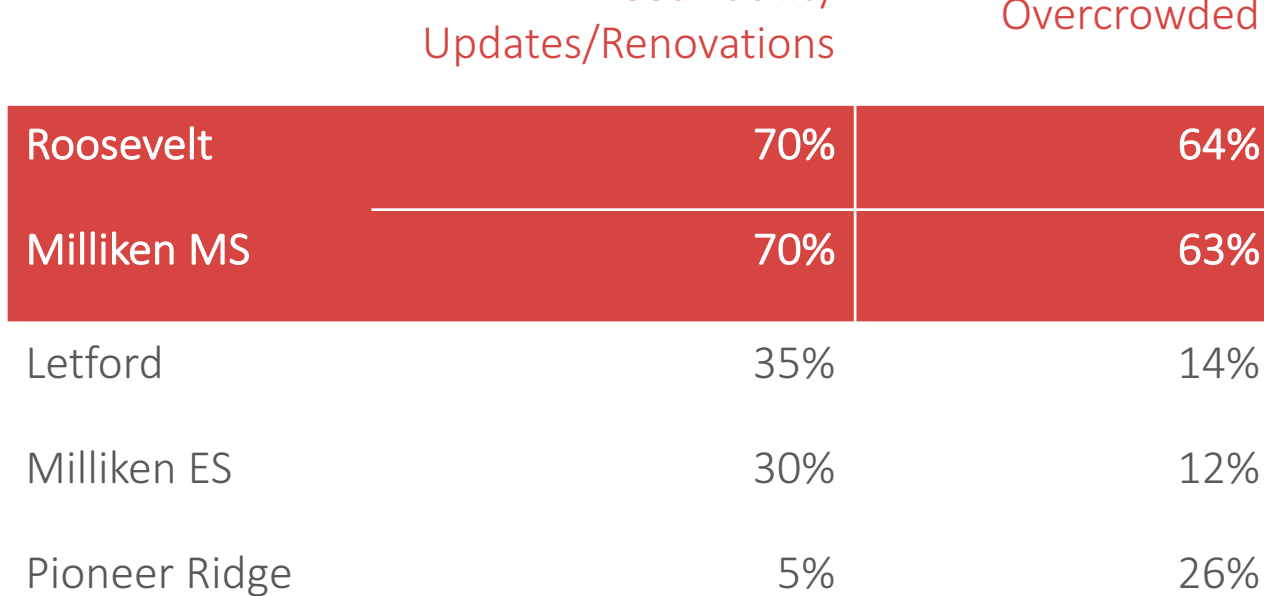
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	Need Facility Updates/Renovations	Overcrowded
Roosevelt	70%	64%
Milliken MS	70%	63%
Letford	35%	14%
Milliken ES	30%	12%
Pioneer Ridge	5%	26%

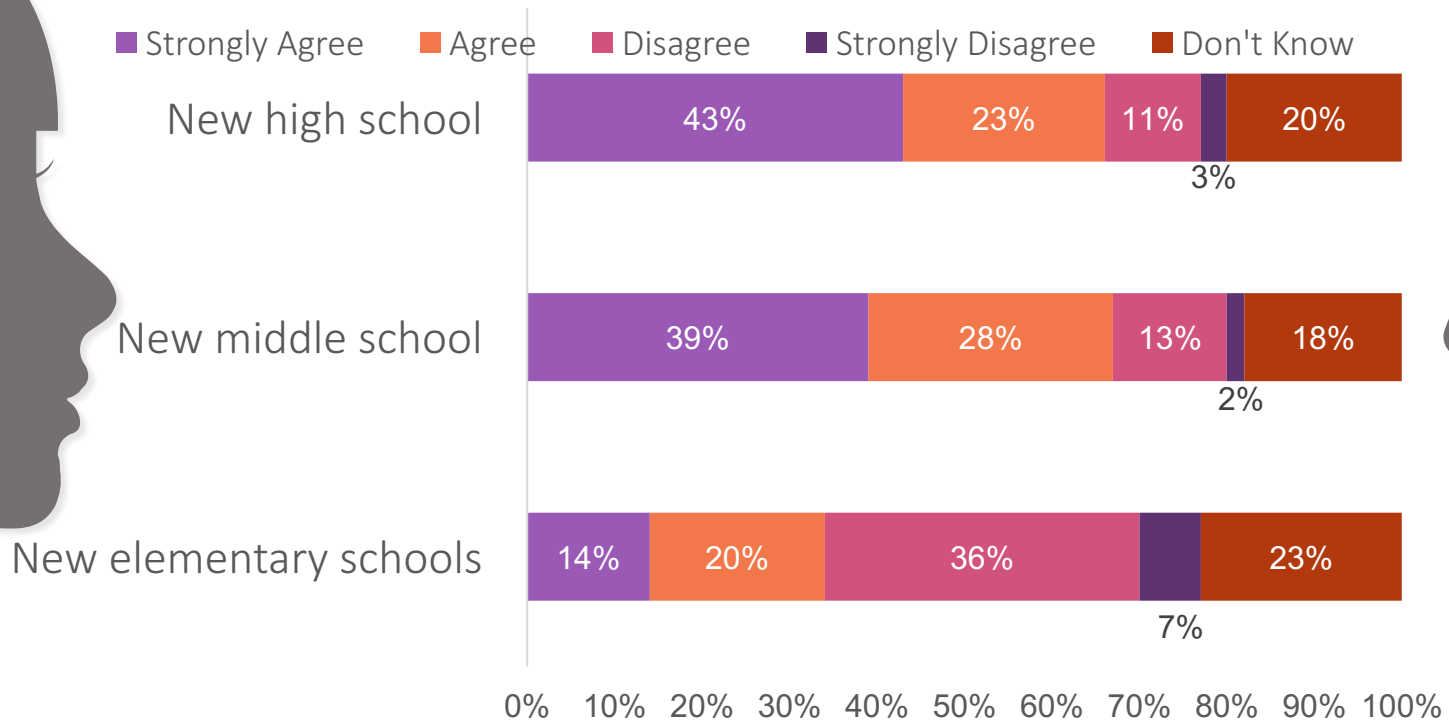
13% responded “don’t know” when asked which facilities need updated/renovation and 19% responded “don’t know” when asked which facilities are currently overcrowded.



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## New Facilities

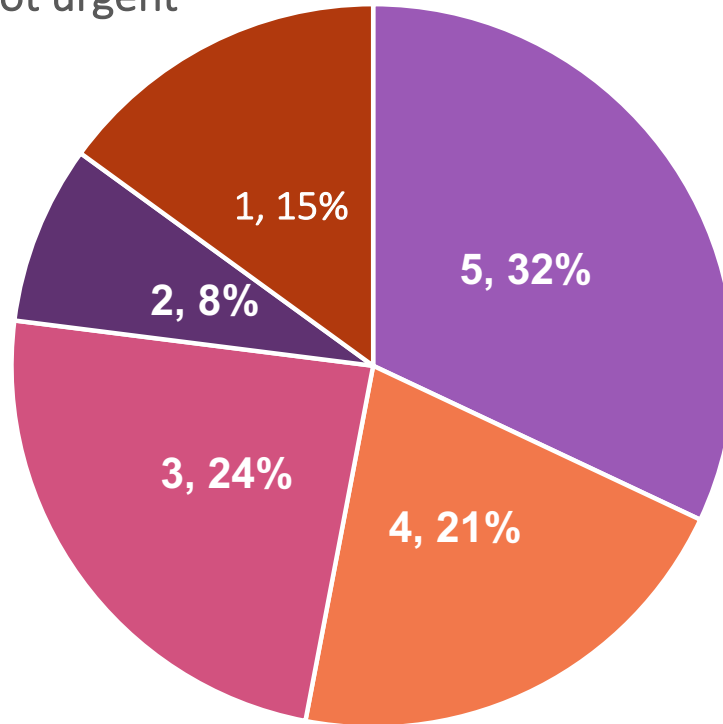


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## New High School

How urgent is the need to replace the high school (1 being not urgent and 5 being very urgent)?

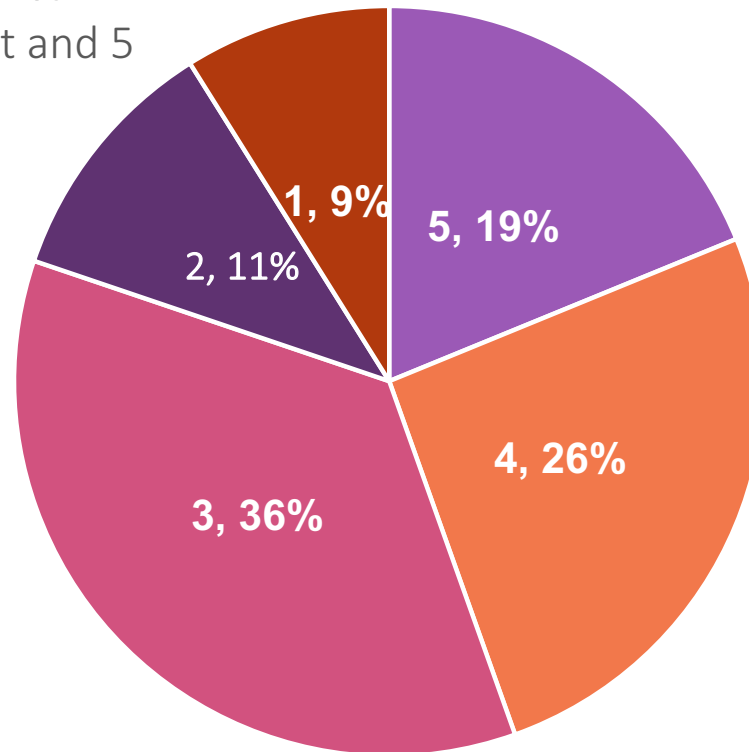


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## Other District Facilities

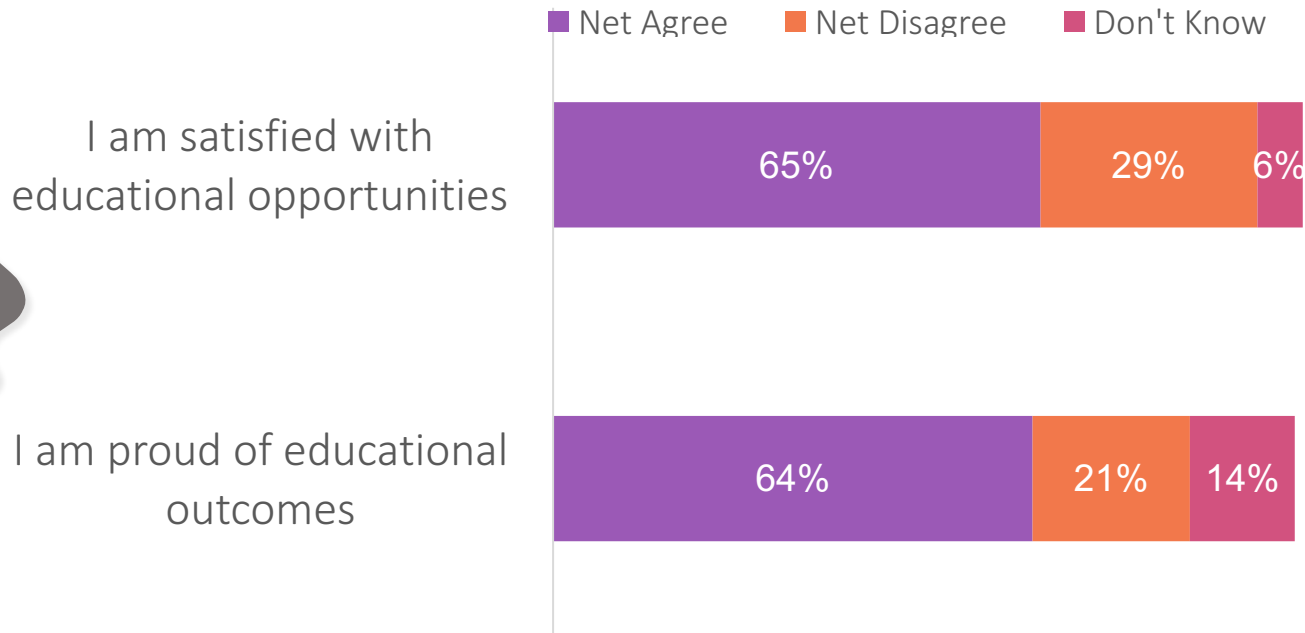
How urgent is the need to update/renovate **other district facilities** (1 being not urgent and 5 being very urgent)



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## Educational Opportunities & Outcomes



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## What is important to you?

Responses that garnered **75% and higher**:

**92% Quality Teachers**

**90% Academic Achievement**

86% Positive school culture and climate

85% College and career readiness

80% Safety

76% Quality school leadership

Responses that garnered **less than 40%**:  
36% Academic recognition or awards  
26% Athletic record, recognition, or awards

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## What is important to you?

From your prior selections please choose the **one thing** that matters most to you when it comes to education.

*Collectively accounting for 67% of responses:*

- **24% Academic Achievement**
- 17% College and career readiness
- 15% Quality teachers
- 11% Instruction that is personalized to each student's ability and interests

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## Words associated with RE-5J?

Responses that garnered 16% and higher:

56% Growing

28% Safe

25% Welcoming

24% Caring

16% Supportive

### Themes from **open-ended responses:**

- Crowded
- Overcrowded

# OUR VISION

Our students will be ...

Able to achieve high expectations

Life-long learners

Set up for success, prepared for college/career

Proud of where they came from and where they went to school

We will be guided by shared goals for educating our children.

In classrooms across the district students will:

- Gain 21st century skills
- Own their learning and educational experience; know what success is and how to achieve it
- Embrace challenges
- Be encouraged to set ambitious goals

Our schools will work with students and their families to identify and set goals and address the distinct learning needs, interests, and aspirations of students.

We will demonstrate excellence at every level.



# NEXT STEPS: 2017-2018 TASKFORCES OR FORUMS

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Potential Bond & Mill Levy Override



Districtwide Transportation Challenges



College & Career Readiness



Mental Health & Bullying

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