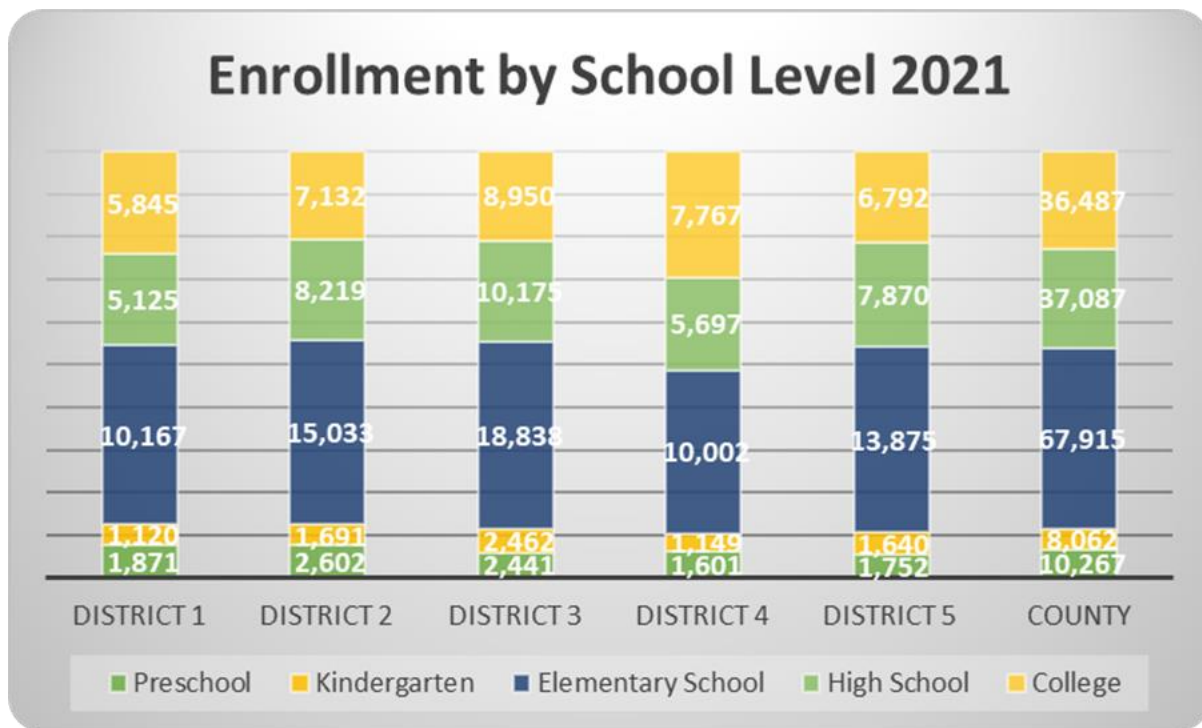


Arapahoe County Demographic Highlight 2021 – School Enrollment by Commissioner District

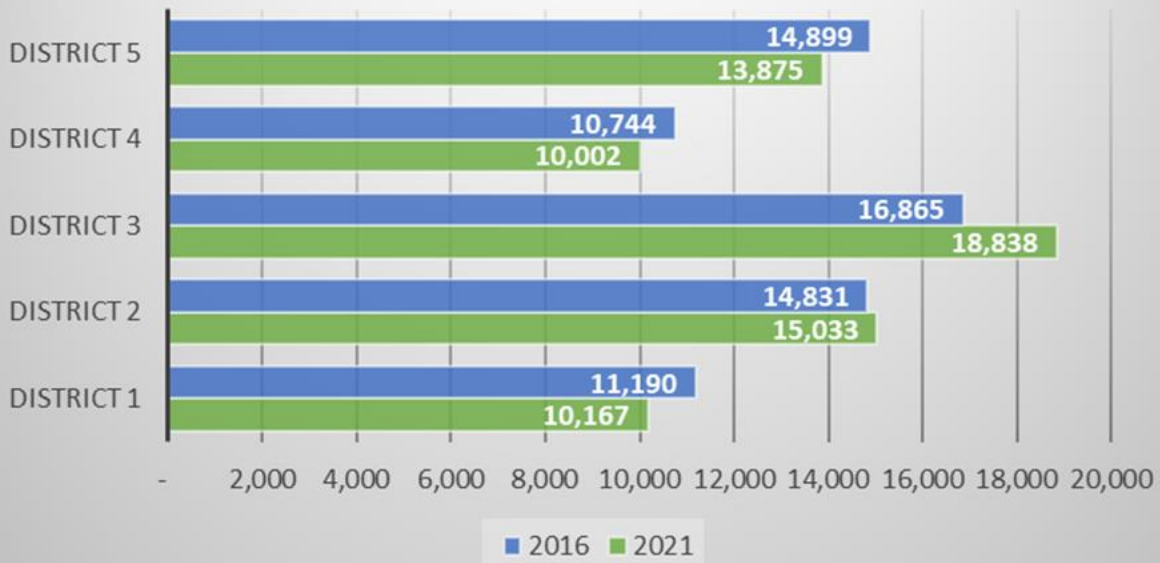
In December, the U.S. Census Bureau released data from the American Community Survey for places as small as census tracts. Annual surveys are the basis for these data but, for small areas, the Bureau accumulates five years of data before they release new information. Therefore, the new release is based on surveys collected from 2017 to 2021. I will refer to this as 2021 data even though it represents a five-year dataset. The demographic highlight series will use these data to report on subareas of Arapahoe County. The next several highlight reports will use the County Commissioner districts as the reporting units.

This highlight discusses school enrollment in each of the five Commissioner districts. Remember that this is reporting from households about enrollments in their household rather than an inventory of school district reports and includes private as well as public enrollment. The first chart shows the percentage of the population 3 years and over enrolled in different school levels. District 4 stands out for the percentage enrolled in college or graduate school, 7 percentage points above the County average. Districts 2, 3, and 5 had 23 percent or more enrolled in high school (grades 9 to 12) and District 3 had the highest proportion of elementary school enrollees at 44.0 percent.



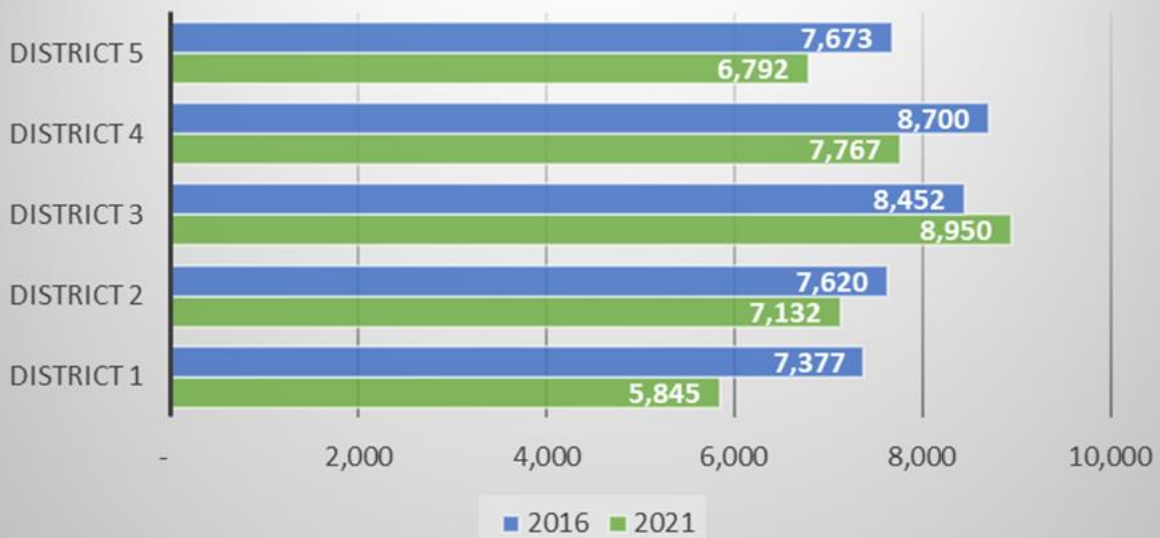
The next two charts compare school enrollments for two levels (elementary school and college) in 2016 and 2021. For elementary school, only Districts 2 and 3 added more students with District 3 adding the most enrollees at 2,000 new students. Districts 1 and 4 had the fewest elementary students at about 10,000 each and had declined by at least 700 students.

Elementary School Enrollment 2016 and 2021



College enrollment declined by about 1,500 students in District 1 and by 900 in District 4. District 4 had the highest college enrollment in 2016 but District 3 passed it by 2021 while adding 500 more students. For the County as a whole, college enrollment had dropped to 36,500 from 39,800. Some of this decline is likely due to the pandemic in 2021.

College Enrollment, 2016 and 2021



Since the ACS asks about school enrollment at the household level, we can display the percentage in private schools. The highest shares of private enrollment were at the preschool and graduate school levels. District 2 had the highest percentage of preschoolers in private schools at 52 percent. District 4 had 17 percent of kindergarten students in private schools; all of the other Districts were 13 percent or less. District 1 also had the highest percentage of middle school and high school students in private schools, with the high school percentage of 12 percent matched by District 2 at 13 percent. District 5 had the lowest share of private school enrollment.

Percent Private School							
	Preschool	Kindergarten	Grades 1 to 4	Grades 5 to 8	Grades 9 to 12	Undergraduate	Graduate
District 1	45%	13%	13%	12%	15%	18%	50%
District 2	52%	10%	8%	13%	12%	21%	37%
District 3	46%	9%	7%	5%	10%	19%	36%
District 4	32%	17%	7%	9%	5%	20%	43%
District 5	18%	2%	7%	6%	4%	13%	37%
County	40%	10%	8%	9%	9%	18%	41%

The Census Bureau also reports these data by school district, although it does not split it out by county. The table below shows the change in enrollment between 2016 and 2021 for each of the nine school districts that serve Arapahoe County. The “Total” lines at the bottom of the table show that three of the attendance areas lost students during the five years; four lost public enrollment. Cherry Creek shows the greatest gains, followed by the Bennett district.

Change 2016-21	Adams-Arapahoe School District 28J	Bennett School District 29-J	Byers School District 32J	Cherry Creek School District 5	Deer Trail School District 26J	Englewood School District 1	Littleton School District 6	Sheridan School District 2	Strasburg School District 31J
Enrolled in nursery school, preschool	-151	-56	-1	134	-17	-43	-35	45	-62
Public	-38	-6	0	187	-17	-40	-36	22	-62
Private	-113	-50	-1	-53	0	-3	1	23	0
Enrolled in kindergarten	-829	-22	-23	140	3	-6	-86	62	9
Public	-866	-31	-29	222	0	-8	-99	62	8
Private	37	9	6	-82	3	2	13	0	1

Enrolled in grade 1 to grade 4	-1404	162	-40	623	61	-346	121	-57	87
Public	-1543	62	-47	79	61	-375	-53	-26	50
Private	139	100	7	544	0	29	174	-31	37
Enrolled in grade 5 to grade 8	175	104	9	471	-11	-119	-183	-10	235
Public	-9	32	-16	-203	-11	-114	-71	21	212
Private	184	72	25	674	0	-5	-112	-31	23
Enrolled in grade 9 to grade 12	1966	257	133	981	-21	-157	-487	140	4
Public	1525	196	74	958	-21	-104	-776	152	-2
Private	441	61	59	23	0	-53	289	-12	6
Total enrolled	-243	445	78	2349	15	-671	-670	180	273
Public	-931	253	-18	1243	12	-641	-1035	231	206
Private	688	192	96	1106	3	-30	365	-51	67