



The Denver Plan 2020 is the Denver Public Schools' five-year strategic plan. With the vision of Every Child Succeeds, we are committed to five goals designed to close academic achievement gaps and prepare all students for success in college and careers. Among these goals is College and Career Ready.

What is the goal?

One of our five goals in the district's strategic plan — the Denver Plan 2020 — is to ensure our students graduate college- and career-ready. We inspire, challenge and empower our students to embrace education as an adventure to explore a variety of paths to exciting destinations, and to forge their own futures. Life beyond high school is different than what it used to be. Most jobs in Colorado now and in the future require training or education beyond high school. Our DPS graduates will take many paths to pursue their dreams, and our schools must prepare them for their future.

As a district, we seek to:

- Increase the four-year graduation rate for students who start with DPS in ninth grade to 90% by 2020.
- Double the number of students who graduate college- and career-ready as measured by the increasing rigor of the state standards.

What area(s) are we focused on to achieve these increases?

We provide a variety of supports and services for our students and their families, not just on their path to graduation, but to ensure their success in a globally-connected, knowledge-based economy. We offer many programs for students to explore a variety of career fields, learn about college opportunities and financial aid, and even earn college credit while still in high school.



Students can also receive support in making up for lost credits in order to make it to the graduation stage on time. By completing these important components to earn their DPS diploma of possibility, our students will be empowered for success to make their plan for the future a reality!

Some of the specialized programming and supports we offer include:

- Advanced Placement courses
- ASCENT college placement program
- AVID college eligibility preparation program for grades 5 through 12
- CareerConnect job placement and post-secondary study program
- Concurrent enrollment for college credit
- Credit and unit recovery opportunities for classes and units previously failed
- International Baccalaureate program

What specific things are we doing to make progress this year?

Beginning with the Class of 2021 (ninth graders in fall 2017), DPS has redefined our expectations for earning a DPS diploma so that our graduates will be successful in any path they choose. This new approach is less about the time spent in a classroom, and more about students demonstrating they are truly prepared for the world after high school.

The change in graduation requirements means students must demonstrate their competency (or what they know how to do) in courses that reflect Colorado academic standards and 21st century skills in order to graduate from high school. While students will have consistent requirements at each school, the Individual Career and Academic Plans (ICAPs) they develop and revisit throughout high school with their counselors give them the opportunity to identify and explore their passions through various courses.

How can you learn more or get involved?

Our vision is that Every Child Succeeds, and that starts with the belief that all students will achieve at the highest levels, and proudly cross the graduation stage ready for college, careers and life. We're proud of the progress we've made, but know we still have work to do. Share our student success stories on social media, and join in the conversation with the hashtag **#DPSgrad!**

For More Information:

For updates and events, follow along at collegeandcareerready.dpsk12.org. For communications assistance in support of this Denver Plan goal, contact Policy Communications Specialist Jordan Neri at jordan_neri@dpsk12.org.

