

# Creating Connections

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FOSTERING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN SCHOOL-BASED  
HEALTH CENTERS AND SCHOOLS

# Presenter:

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Jade Williamson

Healthy Schools Specialist

Division of Student Equity and Opportunity

Denver Public Schools

720-423-3748

[Jade\\_Williamson@dpsk12.org](mailto:Jade_Williamson@dpsk12.org)

# Today's Agenda

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- Overview of Denver Public Schools (DPS)
- School-Based Health Centers in DPS
- Fostering positive relationships between SBHCs and schools
  - connecting SBHCs to district goals
  - shared decision making for SBHCs
  - SBHC awareness and engagement

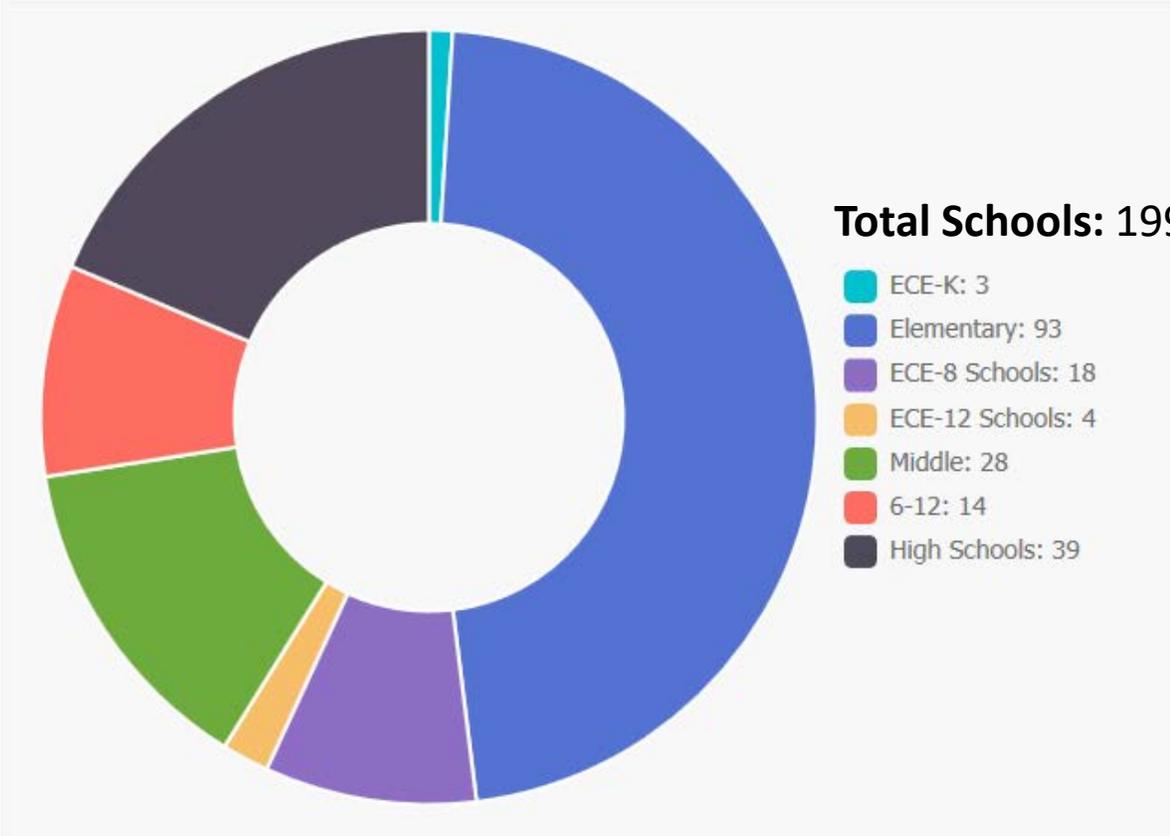
# Overview of Denver Public Schools

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Denver Public Schools is the largest school district in the state

# DPS Overview

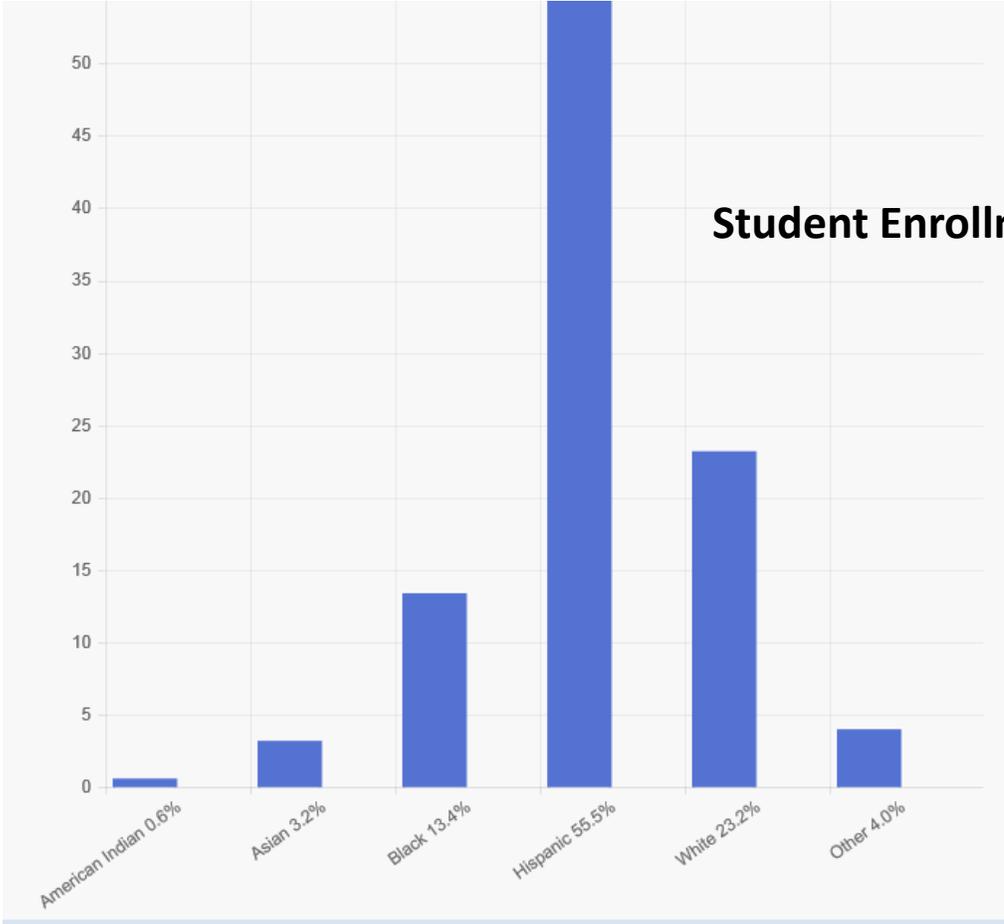
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**Total Schools:** 199 for school year 2015-2016

# DPS Overview

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**Student Enrollment: 92,331 (October 1, 2016)**

# DPS Overview

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- English language learners ECE-12th:
  - 33,650 or 36.8%
- Spanish speaking students:
  - 34,098 or 37%
- Top languages spoken by students:
  - Spanish
  - Vietnamese
  - Arabic
  - Somali
  - Amharic
  - French
  - Nepali
  - Russian

# DPS Overview

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# DPS Overview

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**Graduation rate: 64.8%**

**On-time completion rate: 66.9%**

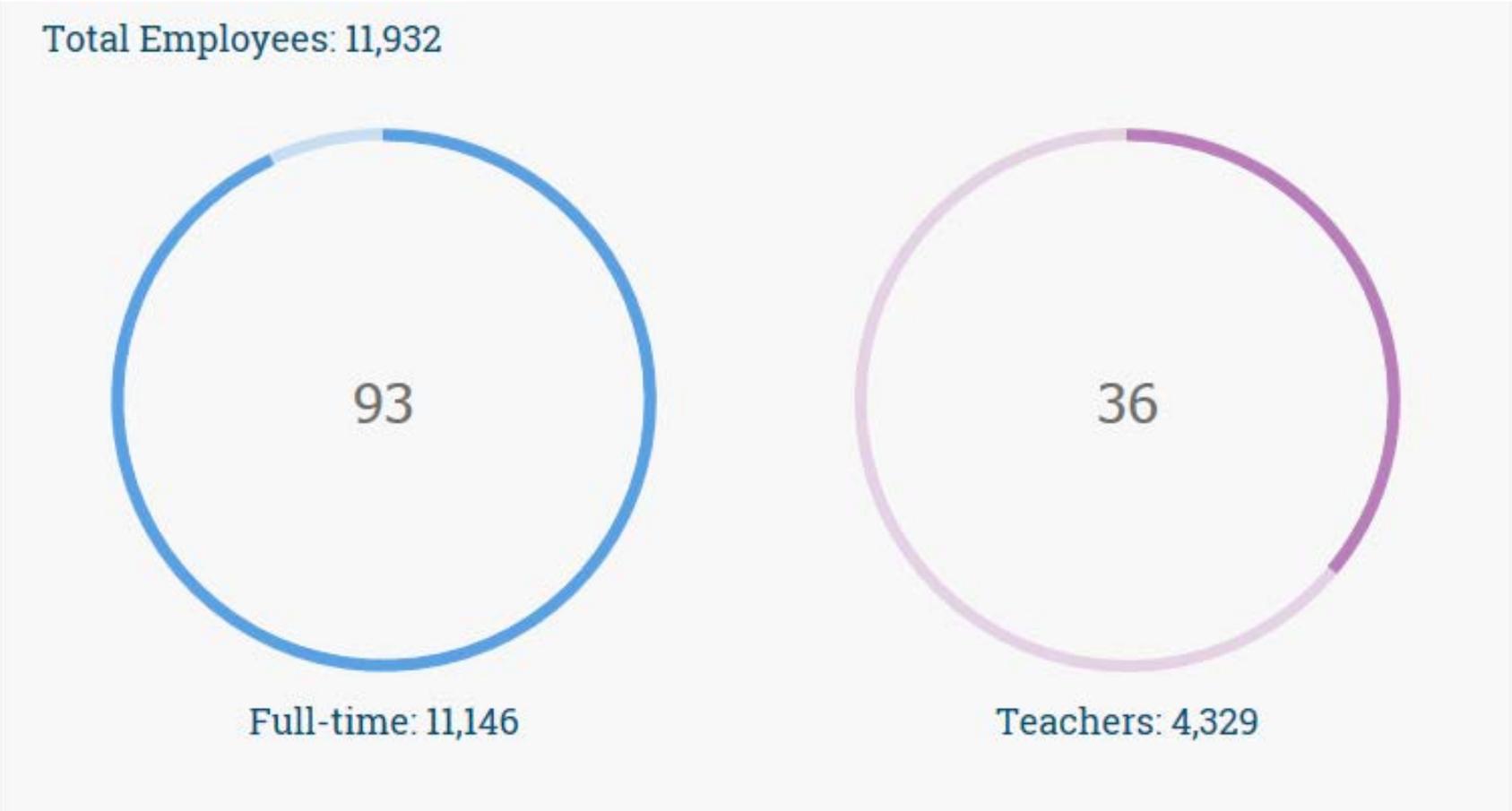
- the graduation rate is determined by following one group of students (a cohort) over a four-year period from grades 9 through 12

**Dropout rate: 4.6%**

- the dropout rate is a one-year snapshot of all students who drop out of school during one school year. This rate considers all students in grades 7 through 12

# DPS Overview

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# School-Based Health Centers in DPS

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The first SBHC opened in Denver Public Schools in 1987

# School-Based Health Centers in DPS

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- 17 School-Based Health Centers in DPS

- Abraham Lincoln Campus
- Bruce Randolph Campus
- Evie Dennis Campus
- John F. Kennedy Campus
- Kepner Campus
- Kunsmiller Campus
- Lake Campus
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Early College Campus
- Manual Campus
- Montbello Campus
- North Campus
- Place Bridge Academy Campus
- Noel Campus
- South Campus
- West Campus
- Thomas Jefferson Campus
- Florence Crittenton Campus

# School-Based Health Centers in DPS

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- Medical sponsor is Denver Health and Hospital Authority
  - additional partners include Jewish Family Service of Colorado and Mental Health Center of Denver
- All sites have physical and behavioral health services
  - select sites have dental services, health education, STEP and enrollment services
- More than 11,000 DPS students use a SBHC each year
- All students have access to SBHCs (including ECE community sites)

# Connecting SBHCs to District Goals

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SBHC sustainability is about more than dollars

# Connecting SBHCs to District Goals

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- SBHCs are one of many programs operating in or serving schools
  - medical model in an academic setting
- Imperative to connect the work of SBHCs to the strategic goals of the district
  - strategic goals are the focus of schools/districts and the accountability indicators of success
- Connect the work of SBHCs to key concerns of the district
  - connections make the work of SBHCs relevant and easy to connect for administrators
  - attendance, grades, course performance, supporting students with extra curricular activities/enrichment, etc.

# Connecting SBHCs to District Goals

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The Denver Plan 2020 is Denver Public Schools' five-year strategic plan. With the vision of *Every Child Succeeds*, DPS has committed to five specific goals designed to close academic achievement gaps and prepare all students for success in college and careers.

# Connecting SBHCs to District Goals

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The Denver Plan:

Goal 1: Great Schools in Every Neighborhood (high performing schools)

Goal 2: A Foundation for Success in School (early literacy)

Goal 3: Ready for College and Career (graduation rates)

Goal 4: Support for the Whole Child (supports for students)

Goal 5: Close the Opportunity Gap (graduation rates and literacy goals for African American and Latino students)

# Connecting SBHCs to District Goals

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Support for the Whole Child

# Connecting SBHCs to District Goals

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- Easily connect to Goal 4 of the Denver Plan, but we have also made the case that SBHCs help support the other strategic goals by removing barriers that promote academic success
- For example:
  - well child checks and other SBHC services help identify and treat physical and behavioral health issues that may impact a student's ability to attend school, learn, read or write
  - care for chronic conditions (such as Asthma) helps to limit the number of days a student may be absent from school. Fewer school days missed, helps support improved academic performance

....Both of these examples support student learning and the strategic goals of early literacy and improved graduation rates

# Shared Decision Making for SBHCs

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Shared decision making increases buy-in and commitment for SBHCs and ultimately, helps ensure their long term sustainability

# Shared Decision Making for SBHCs

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- Health Services Council:

- high level decision making group focused on the strategic direction of SBHCs
- representatives include: Executive Director of Ambulatory Care Services, Director of General Pediatrics, Director of School-Based Services, Associate Chief of Student Equity and Opportunity, etc.

- SBHC Management Team:

- mid level group focused on the operations of the centers and collaborative problem solving at the systems level
- representatives include: SBHC Team Lead, SBHC Program Managers, DPS Nursing Services Leadership, DPS Psychologist/Social Worker Leadership, etc.

# Shared Decision Making for SBHCs

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- Site-Based Management:
  - group focused on the day to day operations of the centers and collaborative problem solving at the individual school level
  - representatives include Principal or Assistant Principal, SBHC site staff, school nurse, school psychologist, school social worker, etc.
- DPS SBHC Liaison:
  - supports the entire program model from strategy to daily operations of SBHCs
  - meets regularly with partners and school staff
  - serves as a main point of contact for SBHCs within the district
  - helps ensure collaboration across functions

# SBHC Awareness and Engagement

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Long term sustainability is dependent on both the awareness and the utilization of SBHCs

# SBHC Awareness and Engagement

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- District level:
  - district communication channels such as website, student/parent handbook, newsletters, parent portal, etc.
- Key stakeholder groups:
  - informational presentations and online communications to key stakeholder groups including principals, teachers, school nurses, psychologist, social workers and counselors, etc.
  - SBHC representatives on a variety of internal district work groups/ advisory groups
  - positive and ongoing relationships with other key departments including Early Childhood Education, DPS Athletics, Title I Programs, Discipline, Safety and Security, Technology, Facilities Management, Construction Services, etc.

# SBHC Awareness and Engagement

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## School level:

- face to face meetings with key staff, registration events, back to school nights, school newsletters, tours, faculty meetings, social media, etc.

## To increase SBHC enrollment and utilization:

- include SBHC consent packets in school registration mailings
- table at school registration events and other school events
- provide consent packets and information to key referral staff (nurses, psychologists, social workers, athletics, etc.)
- targeted information blasts (back to school or sports physicals, flu shots, etc.)

# To Close

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Fostering positive relationships between SBHCs and schools should be an intentional, continuous and collaborative process

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Questions?

