

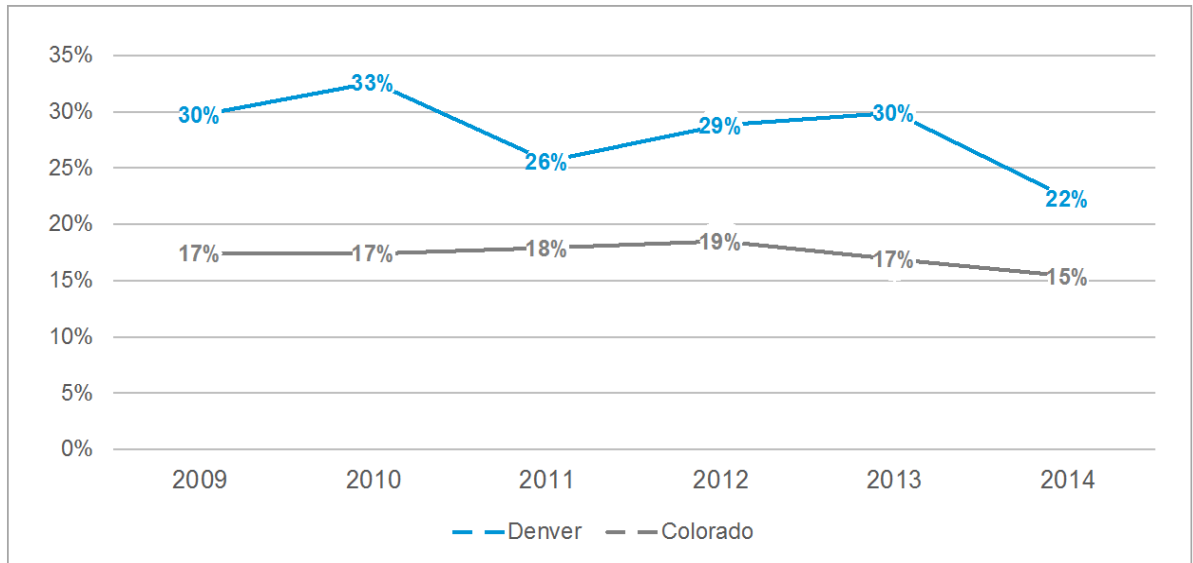
The Denver Landscape: Maps & Data

Environmental Context and Factors

A variety of factors including poverty, family stability and level of parental education are known to impact school readiness and third grade achievement.

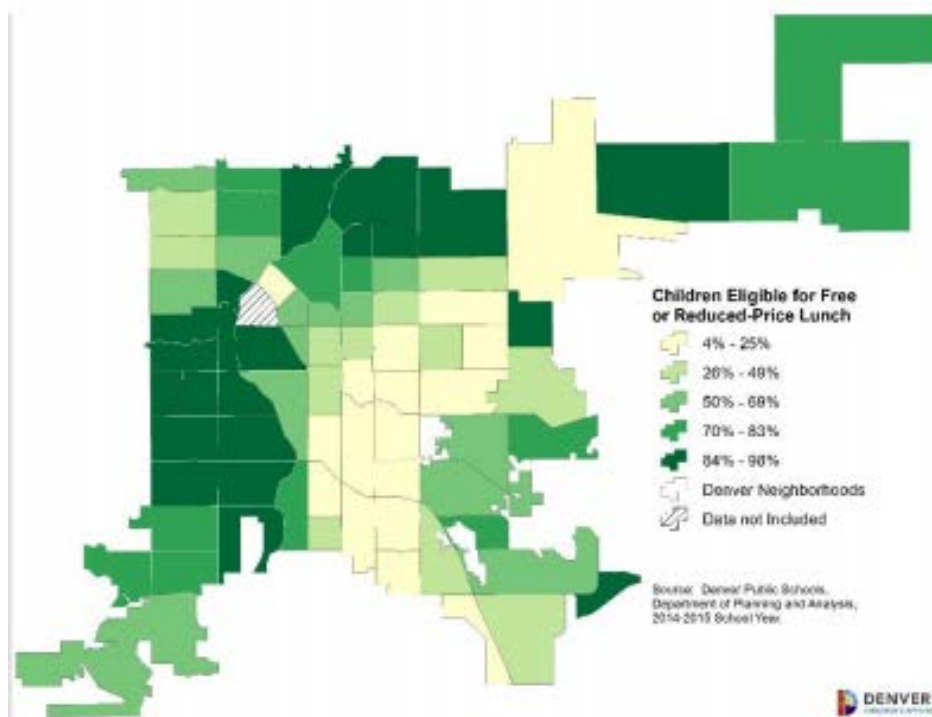
In 2014, 22 percent (30,500) of Denver's children were living in poverty, a dramatic decrease from 29 percent in 2013.¹ Poverty is defined by the federal government as \$24,250 annual income for a family of four. According to the self-sufficiency standard by the Colorado Center on Law and Policy, it costs approximately \$73,749 to meet the basic needs of a family of four in Denver.²

Children in Poverty



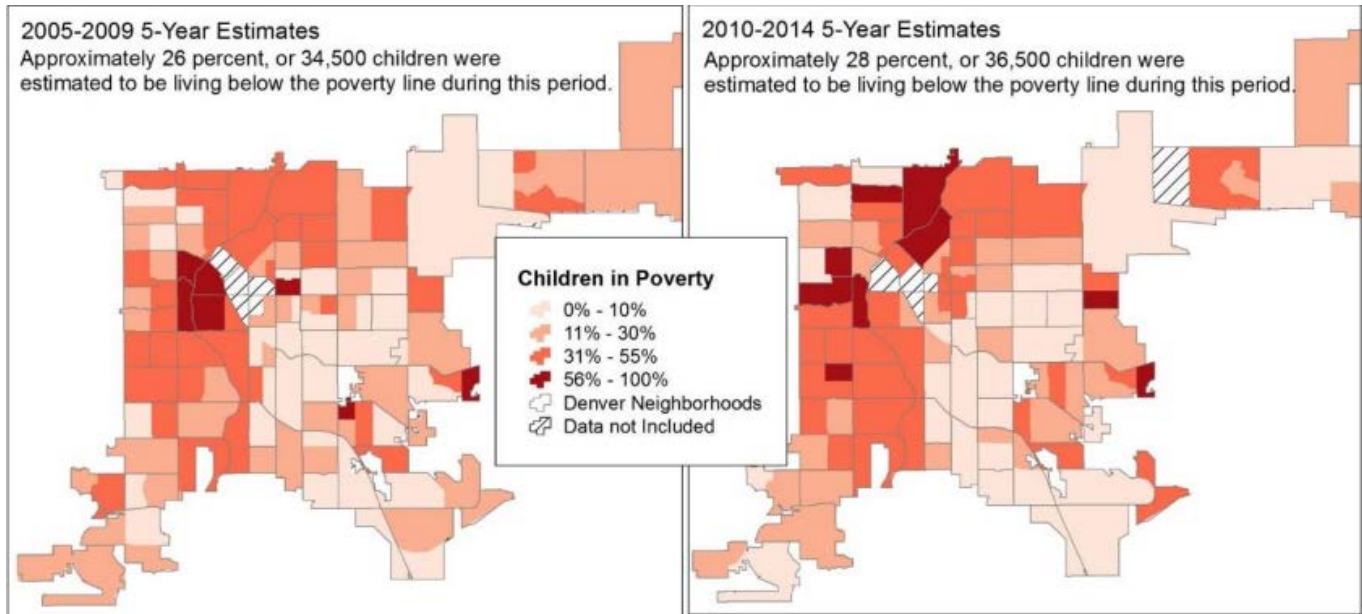
More than two-thirds DPS students (68 percent) qualified for the free or reduced-price lunch benefit during the 2015-2016 school year.³

Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Eligibility



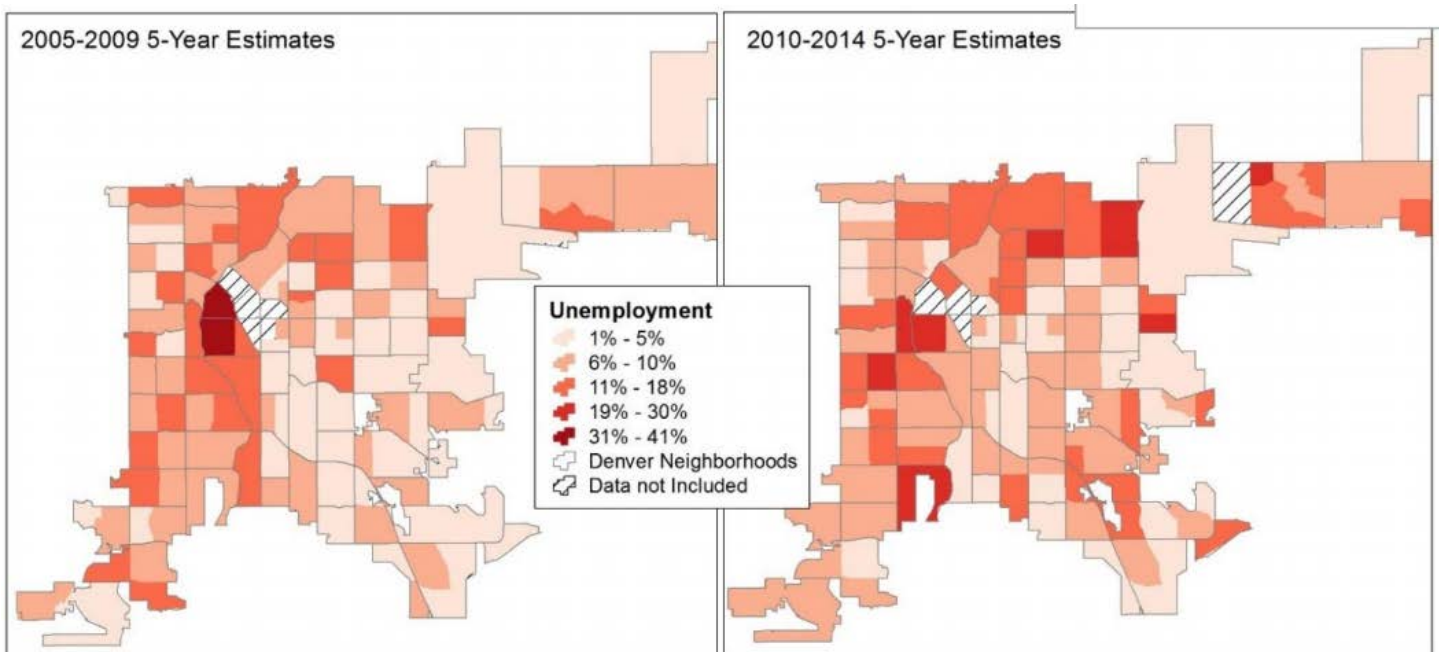
The growth of children living in areas of concentrated poverty since 2000 has been dramatic, with approximately one quarter of Denver's children now living in these neighborhoods⁴ (defined as census tracts with a poverty rate of 30 percent and higher).

Children in Poverty in Denver by Neighborhood



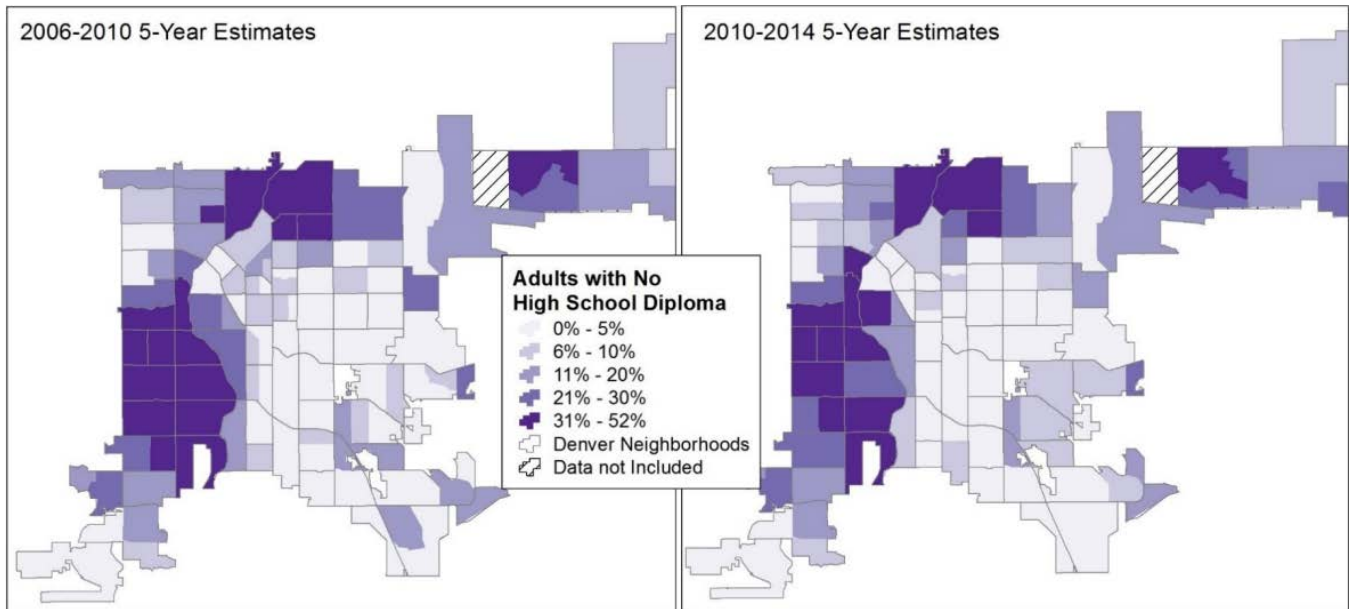
In 2014, almost one-third of children (31 percent) lived in families where no parent had full-time, year round employment.⁵

Unemployment Rates in Denver



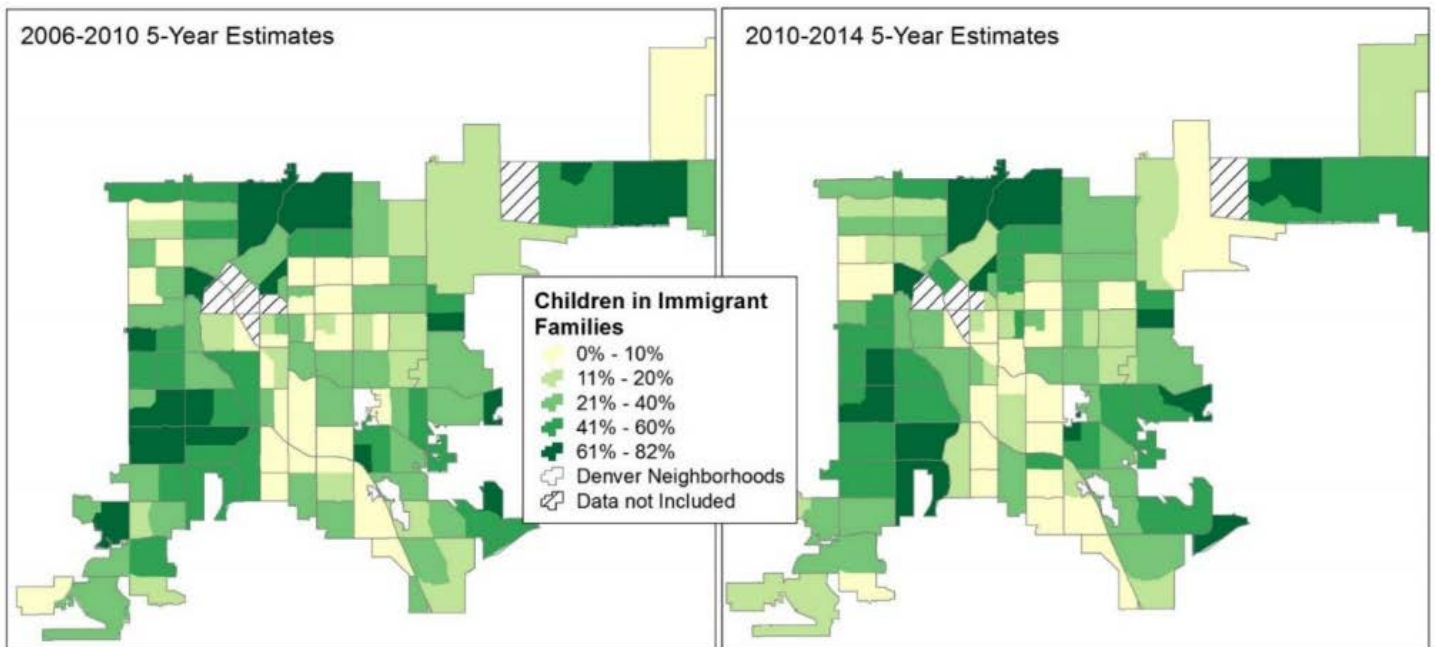
In 2014, 15 percent of adults in Denver did not have a high school diploma. In some Denver neighborhoods, up to half of all adults (31 to 52 percent) lack a high school diploma or GED.⁶

Adults in the Community without a High School Diploma



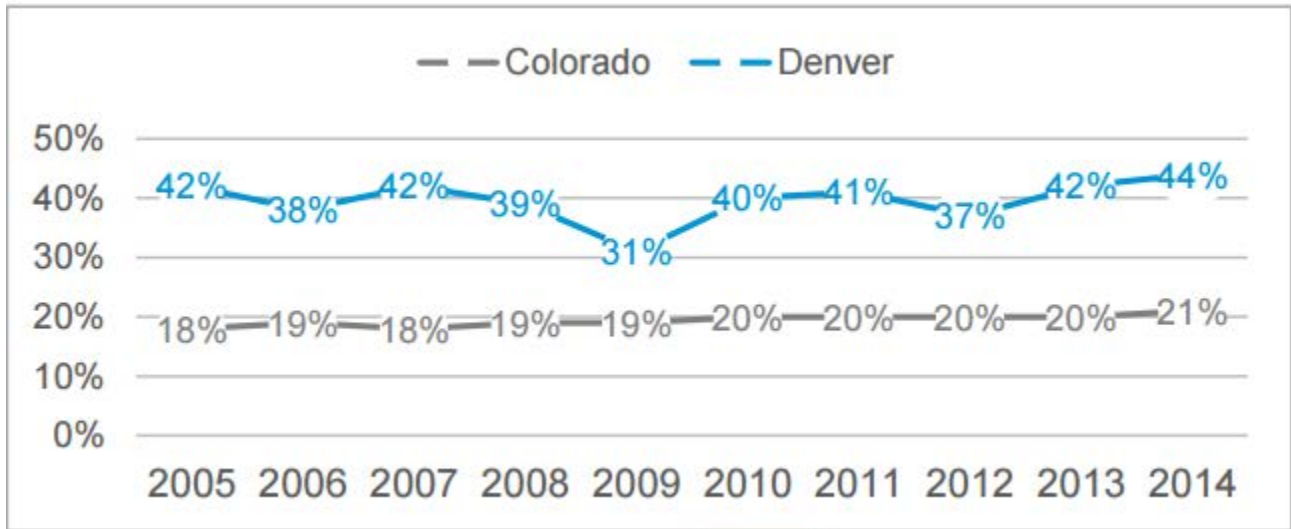
In 2014, 40 percent (55,000) of Denver's children lived in immigrant families.⁷

Children in Immigrant Families



Forty-four percent of children under the age of 18 spoke a language other than English at home.⁸

Children Who Speak a Language Other Than English at Home

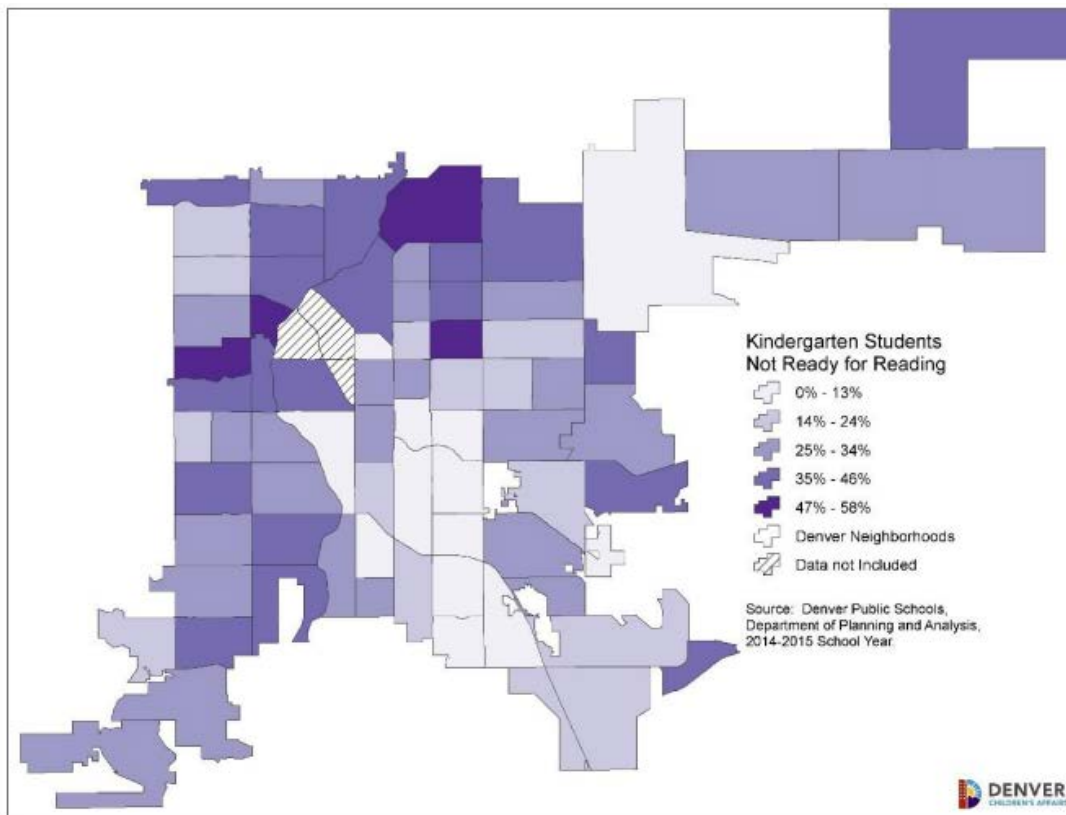


Learning Outcomes

Levels of kindergarten readiness vary widely across Denver. Children with low levels of preparation often struggle to read at grade level by third grade.

Seventy-one percent of all DPS kindergarteners tested were reading at or above grade level, as measured for the 2014-2015 school year. However, results varied widely by neighborhood. In some neighborhoods, nearly all children met this standard; in others, less than half the children were able to read at or above grade level.⁹

Kindergarten Students Not Ready for Reading



Reading proficiency for Denver children has been improving at an incremental rate, but a large achievement gap persists. Depending on the test, up to 70 percent of Denver third grade students are behind in their reading.

School Year	English Language Learners (ELL)		Low Income Support		Overall
	ELL	Non-ELL	Eligible	Ineligible	
2010	33%	51%	34%	59%	43%
2011	36%	55%	36%	74%	46%
2012	41%	58%	41%	77%	51%
2013	40%	59%	41%	75%	51%
2014	45%	59%	43%	76%	52%
2015	18%	39%	16%	61%	31%

Notes:

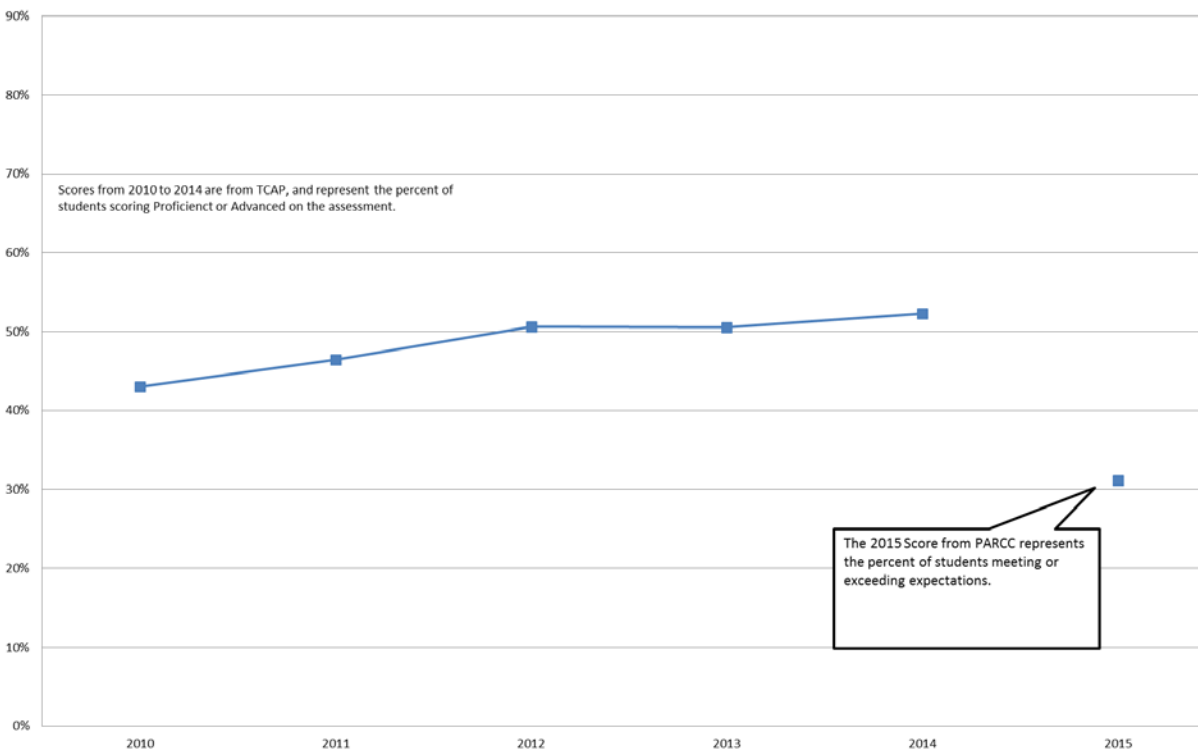
First Year of PARCC

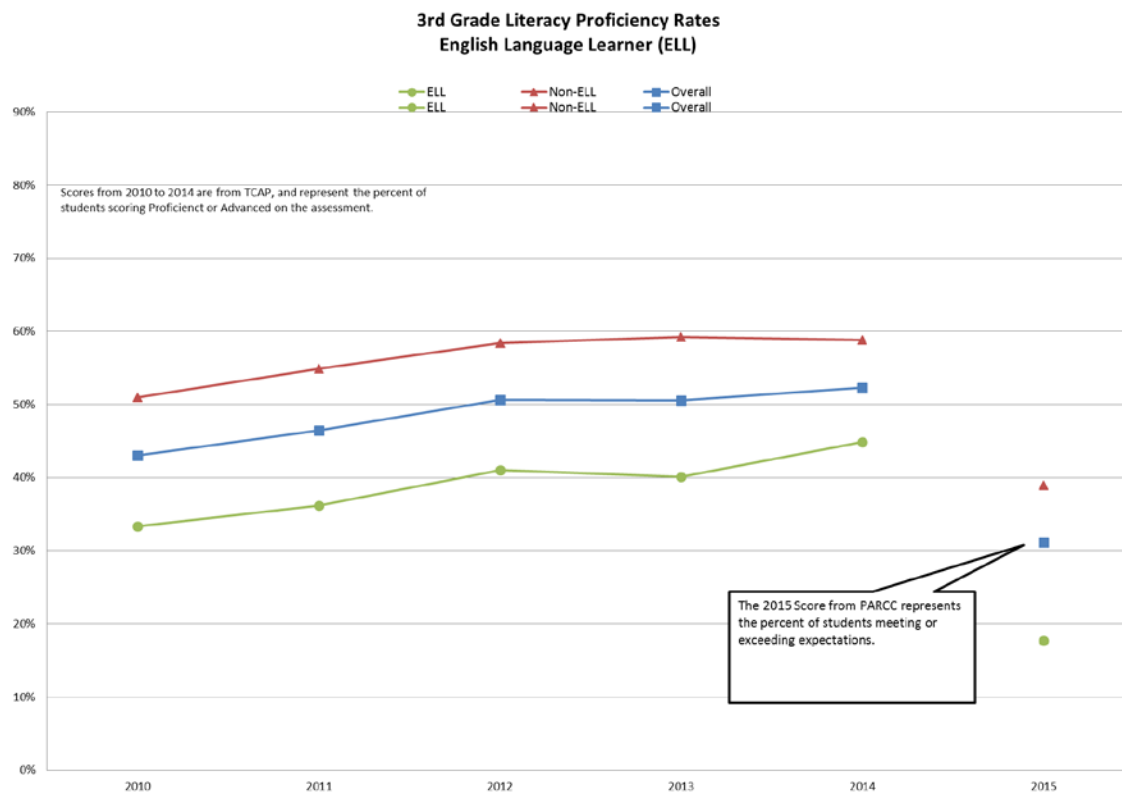
TCAP (2010-2014) is the percent of students scoring Proficient or Advanced, PARCC (2015) is the percent of students meeting or exceeding expectations.

TCAP Scores roll together Reading and Writing in order to be consistent with PARCC scores.

Nevertheless, there are strong signs that a focus on language development and early reading makes a difference. English language learners in DPS have made a 12 point gain in reading proficiency in just four years.¹¹ Additionally, children who have participated in the Denver Preschool Program were more likely to be reading at or above grade level than in the district as a whole.¹² A recent report by DPS showed that kindergartners are more likely to advance to grade level reading than students in any other grade.

3rd Grade Literacy Proficiency Rates



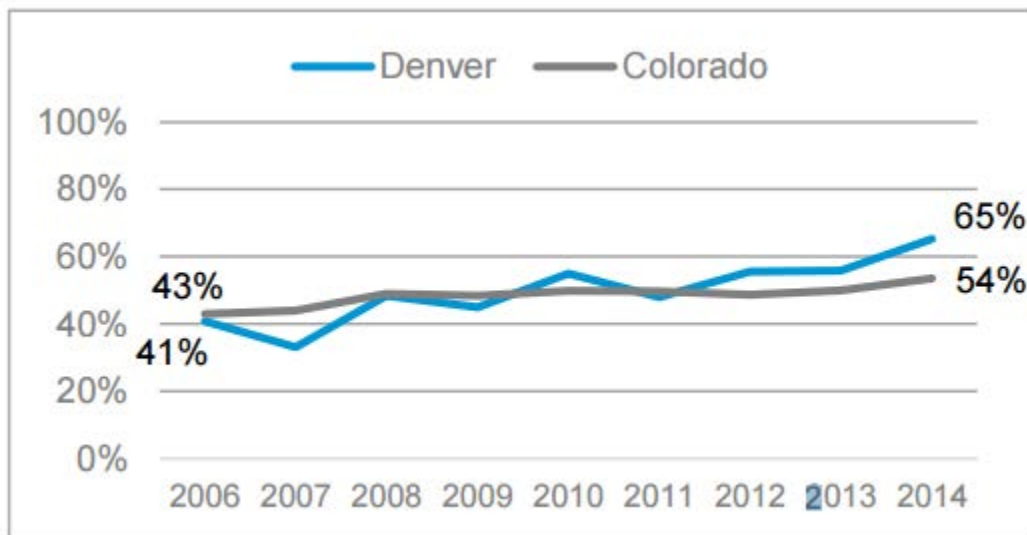


Community Assets

Denver offers many high quality early learning opportunities for young children, although access is often limited in the neediest neighborhoods.

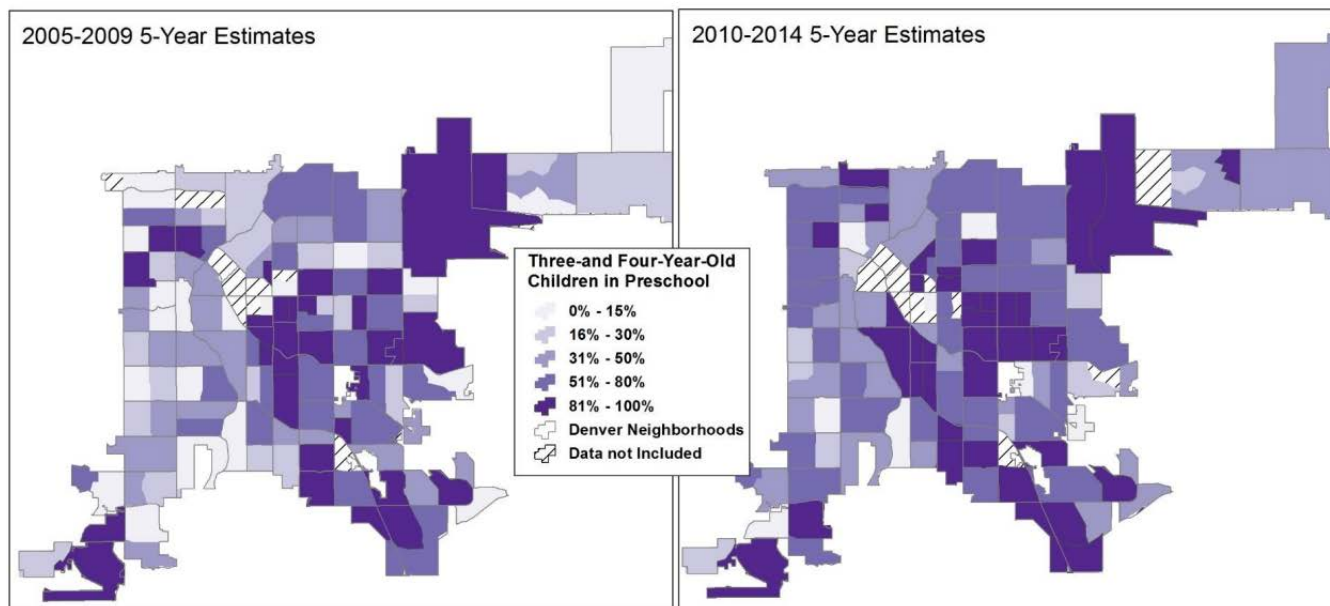
In 2014, 65 percent of three- and four-year-olds were enrolled in preschool in Denver.¹³ Among cities of similar size, Denver ranks third highest in the percentage of three- and four-year-old children attending preschool.¹⁴

Three- and Four-Year Old Children Enrolled in Preschool



There are wide discrepancies in preschool attendance rates in Denver. In some low-income neighborhoods, almost no children attend preschool, while in higher income neighborhoods there is near universal attendance.¹⁵

Denver Three- and Four-Year Old Children Enrolled in Preschool by Neighborhood



DPS provided 7,485 three and four year olds with quality pre-kindergarten instruction at DPS and community preschool sites. Of these children, 29% attend half days and 46% attend full day at DPS sites and 25% attend community sites. Approximately 12% of these students are three year olds and 88% are four year olds.

The Denver Preschool Program is on target to provide nearly 5,000 children with tuition support during the 2015-16 school year. This support helps Denver families pay for high quality preschool for their 4-year-olds. The amount of support a family receives depends on family size and income, the quality of the preschool chosen and the child's level of attendance.

- ¹ U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.) *American Community Survey 2005-2014 Single-Year Estimates. Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months Table S1701*. Retrieved December 2015, from American Fact Finder: <http://factfinder.census.gov>.
- ² Pearce, D. M., (2015, June). *The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Colorado 2015*. The Colorado Center on Law and Policy. Retrieved from <http://depts.washington.edu/selfsuff/drupal/sites/default/files/selfsuff/docs/CO2015.pdf>
- ³ Denver Public Schools, Department of Planning and Analysis. Trends in Free and Reduced-Price Lunch in Denver. Retrieved from https://www.denvergov.org/content/dam/denvergov/Portals/713/documents/reports/StatusOfDenversChildren_2016.pdf
- ⁴ U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.) *American Community Survey 2005-2014 Single-Year Estimates. Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months Table S1701*. Retrieved December 2015, from American Fact Finder: <http://factfinder.census.gov>.
- ⁵ The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2005-2014). *Children Whose Parents Lack Secure Employment*. Retrieved December 2015, from Kids Count Data Center: <http://datacenter.kidscount.org>
- ⁶ U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). *Selected Social Characteristics: Table DP02*. Retrieved September 2015, from American Fact Finder: <http://factfinder.census.gov>.
- ⁷ The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2016, February). *Children in Immigrant Families 2006-2014*. Retrieved from Kids Count Data Center: <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>
- ⁸ The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2005-2014). *Children Who Speak a Language other than English at Home*. Retrieved October 2015, from Kids Count Data Center: <http://datacenter.kidscount.org>
- ⁹ Denver Public Schools. (2015). Percent of DPS kindergarteners who were reading at or above grade level by the end of kindergarten in 2015.
- ¹⁰ Denver Public Schools. (2010-14). Grade 3 Transitional Colorado Assessment Program (TCAP) results [excel spreadsheets]. Denver Public Schools: Student Services.
- ¹¹ Denver Public Schools. (2010-14). Grade 3 Partnership for Assessment for Readiness for College and Careers (PARRC) results. Denver Public Schools: Student Services.
- ¹² Green, S., Mangels, D., Ponce, C. (2015) *Denver Preschool Program: Report on Child Outcomes, 2013-14 School Year Clayton Early Learning Institutes*. Retrieved from <http://dpp.org>
- ¹³ U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). *American Community Survey 2014 Single-Year Estimates: School Enrollment Table S1401*. Retrieved from American Fact Finder: <http://factfinder.census.gov>.
- ¹⁴ U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). *American Community Survey 2014 Single-Year Estimates: School Enrollment Table S1401*. Retrieved from American Fact Finder: <http://factfinder.census.gov>.
- ¹⁵ U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). *American Community Survey 2009-2013 Five-Year Estimates: Preschool School Enrollment Table*. Retrieved from American Fact Finder: <http://factfinder.census.gov>.