

Colorado State Profile

Colorado Digital Learning Solutions, a DLC State Affiliate, was instrumental in conducting the research for this profile.

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Colorado has numerous multi-district fully online programs, district-level programs that are fully online and/or supplemental, hybrid schools, a state virtual school, and at least one online learning consortium.

The Colorado Department of Education's (CDE) Office of Online and Blended Learning reported 24,565 students enrolled in multi-district fully online programs in SY 2022-23. The following illustrates the impact of the pandemic on the full-time multi-district school student enrollment.

- 20,025 students in SY 2019-20
- 28,424 students in SY 2020-21
- 25,655 students in SY 2021-22
- 24,565 students in SY 2022-23

Although enrollments have declined since the COVID peak, there is still a 61% increase for SY 2022-23 over the pre-pandemic enrollments.

There are 56 online schools recognized by the CDE as of September 2023: seven multi-district charter schools, 32 multi-district schools run by districts, and 17 single-district schools. The CDE maintains a [list of all multi-district online schools](#) with program descriptions.

Colorado Digital Learning Solutions (CDLS) is the state virtual school and reported 3,051 students generating 9,825 course enrollments during the 2022-23 SY. Although CDLS saw a large spike in course enrollments during the pandemic, enrollments in SY 2022-23 were more than twice that of the pre-pandemic 2019-20 SY.

State virtual school?	YES
Multi-district fully online schools?	YES
State approval process for online providers?	NO
State approval process for online courses?	NO

- 4,343 course enrollments in SY 2019-20
- 25,667 course enrollments in SY 2020-21
- 11,877 course enrollments in SY 2021-22
- 9,825 course enrollments in SY 2022-23

CDLS has a “[partnership](#)” model (referred to in other states as a franchise model) where districts use CDLS courses and technology infrastructure with their own district teachers. Because of the teacher shortage, CDLS has expanded its “co-teaching” model where local staff and teachers partner with CDLS online instructors to support students as part of their “scheduled day.”

There is no state or region in the US with a greater concentration of active hybrid schools than Colorado’s Front Range region, which includes Fort Collins, Boulder, Denver, Colorado Springs, and Pueblo.

- [PSD Global Academy](#) is a hybrid program of the Poudre School District serving grades K-12 where students learn through blended learning classes on campus and online at home.
- [Cherry Creek Elevation](#) is a hybrid program for students in grades 6-12 delivered in an online platform with weekly face-to-face sessions.
- [Springs Studio for Academic Excellence](#) is a multi-district, hybrid program of District 49 serving students in grades 5-12. Courses are online with face-to-face teacher support for students.
- [Village High School](#) is a hybrid program of District 20 offering a format that includes online, campus, and workplace components.

The [iLearn Collaborative](#) (iLC) is a nonprofit organization that is a state-funded provider of education services delivering digital learning professional development for both teachers and administrators in Colorado and other states. iLC offers digital learning consulting and leadership coaching to school and district administrators in addition to teacher training in blended learning and other topics.

Colorado has significant district digital learning activity including:

- St Vrain Valley Schools’ [LaunchED Virtual Academy](#) offers full-time options for students in grades K-12.
- Boulder Valley School District offers [BVSD Online](#), a supplemental program for middle and high school students, and a full-time option through the Boulder Universal K-12 Online School.
- [Jeffco Virtual Academy](#) offers JeffCo Public Schools students both part- and full-time options.

For details of online learning funding in this state see the DLC’s report [A Review of Online Learning Funding](#).

State Policies

No major legislation impacting online and/or blended learning was passed through August 2023.

The Colorado Department of Education no longer requires that local districts must apply and receive approval to establish their own local online programs or schools.

The state indicates that multi-district online schools (supporting more than 10 students from multiple districts) receive the “minimum” state per-pupil funding. However, “single-district online schools” supporting students only in the resident district will receive the district’s full per-pupil funding.

[*DLC State Profile Key Terms*](#)