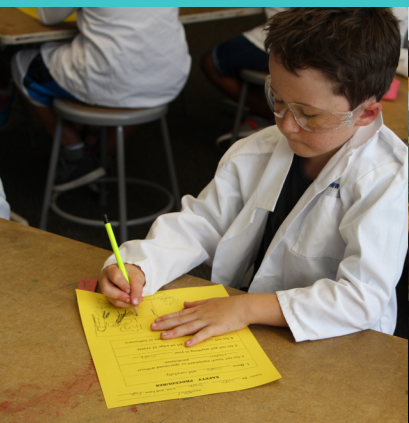


2015-2016 Durango Public School Directory





Durango School District 9-R is a high-performing school district located in western La Plata County in Southwest Colorado. Its 7 elementary schools, 2 middle schools and 2 high schools serve approximately 4,700 students.

First established in 1881 to serve the new railroad town of Durango, the school district was the ninth in La Plata County. In the late 1950s, the district reorganized and incorporated 12 rural school districts to form the “R” in 9-R --- District 9-Reorganized. Today 9-R is known as “a community committed to innovation and excellence in education.”

The mission of Durango School District 9-R is to ensure each student develops the skills and attributes for lifelong learning. Through leading instructional models, globally minded learning programs and engaging teaching and learning methods, the district aims to instill in each student the ability to compete and contribute in the global community. Furthermore, the district encourages supportive and safe school environments, guaranteeing equitable educational opportunities for each and every student.

Some of our objectives include the following:

All students will meet or exceed district “standards of excellence”; each student will successfully complete practical, community-based learning experiences relevant to her/his interests and abilities; all students will develop and demonstrate 21st Century skills such as critical thinking, creativity, effective communication, teamwork, and the application of technology in order to thrive in a career and the global community; all students will develop and consistently demonstrate the character attributes necessary to succeed and contribute in their community.

Within the public school arena, there are 7 elementary schools, 2 middle schools and 2 high schools, as well as two independently chartered public schools serving secondary students: Mountain Middle School and Animas High School (both unaffiliated with 9-R). Southwest Colorado eSchool is another public school option that offers full-time, part-time, or supplemental enrollment for grades 7th-12th. Durango 9-R also offers Shared School, whic

All schools within the public school umbrella in Durango, CO offer an open-enrollment option (on a first-come-first-serve basis), regardless of your designated attendance boundary, which is based on your residence. This flexibility allows families to find the best school to fit their child’s educational and social needs.

Within this guide you will be able to get a snapshot of each school’s philosophies, opportunities and academic focus. Feel free to contact the schools directly to help answer any questions as well as set up a tour of the school.

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Durango Big Picture High School

"One student at a time."

The mission of Durango Big Picture High School is to empower students to use their interests and passions to drive their learning through real world application and experiences in order to reach their personal, social and academic goals.

Durango Big Picture High School is a public school offered through Durango School District 9-R. We offer a non-traditional, college prep program where student's interests and passions drive their learning. Two days a week students attend internships within the community. Three days a week students create and complete independent projects tailored toward meeting district and state graduation standards. DBPHS students attend math class and advisor-run workshops, participate in PE, engage in research, collaborate with their peers, and meet with their advisor. Another DBPHS requirement is that students successfully complete a college class. During the week, students may also be at one of the local colleges taking a class they are interested in.

Distinguishing Characteristics

- Focus on interest-based projects and self-designed learning goals
- Students gain experience through community-based internships
- Advisors offer assistance with ACT prep, college essays, and applications.
- Focus on relationships between student and advisor, student and mentor, and peer-to-peer creating the feel of one big family.
- Concurrent enrollment opportunities for students to take college classes while at Big Picture.

Principal: Alain Henry

ahenry@durango.k12.co.us

Durango Big Picture High School

215 East 12th Street

Durango, CO 81301

(970) 259-0203

bigpicture.durangoschools.org





Durango High School

“Committed to Excellence.”

Imagine a high school where all students are inspired, motivated and engaged to prepare themselves for their future. Durango High School is committed to each student achieving their highest potential in both academic and personal growth during their high school years.

Ninth and tenth graders are offered personalized instruction in the form of three very different learning styles or Small Learning Communities (SLCs): **Atlas**, **Basecamp**, and **DaVinci**.

The **Atlas International School** is an International Baccalaureate program, focusing on the connections between academic subjects and the real world and providing the opportunity to participate in interdisciplinary work. It also promotes the education of the whole person, emphasizing intellectual, personal, emotional and social growth through all domains of knowledge. The **Basecamp School of Expeditionary Learning** transforms the way students experience school by emphasizing how to think, not what to think. Basecamp classrooms are transformed into student-centered areas where the students do the majority of the thinking, collaborating, and solving of compelling challenges to create hands-on, real-world learning opportunities. The **DAVINCI School of Creativity and Innovation** embodies the habits of the mind of Leonardo DaVinci, fostering creative and innovative thinking, combined with rigorous academics and an arts-infused curriculum. The DaVinci model aligns itself with the “STEM to STEAM” movement in which Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) are advanced to a new level when the Arts are integrated into them.

In addition to our SLCs, Durango High School offers students an extensive choice of challenging and rigorous curriculum in core subjects, Advanced Placement classes and elective courses. The majority of our students also participate in at least one of the many extra-curricular activities offered, from a variety of sports/athletic teams, to award-winning fine arts programs and honor academic groups.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

- Model for 21st Century student learning
- Rigorous and personalized academic environment
- International and interdisciplinary enrichment programs
- Internships and concurrent enrollment options
- Extensive opportunities for involvement in clubs, activities and athletics

Principal: Leanne Garcia

lgarcia@durango.k12.co.us

Assistant Principals:

April Neibauer, Joe Pecorino, Scott Winter

Durango High School

2390 Main Ave.

Durango, CO 81301

(970) 259-1630

dhs.durangoschools.org





Escalante Middle School

“Escalante Culture= Respect & Integrity”



Escalante partners with the Expeditionary Learning (EL) network (which feeds into the Basecamp SLC at DHS) and we focus our efforts on two primary goals. The first goal is to continue to build a culture that brings the school community together, promotes shared understandings, and encourages community members to become “crew not passengers.” The three main components of CREW are relationship building, character development, and academic progress monitoring. Escalante’s second goal is centered on student achievement. In EL schools, assessment for learning strategies help students engage in, reflect on, and take responsibility for their own learning. Their work in this area has begun by crafting their own learning targets, which guide daily instruction and assessment by clearly defining the short and long-term goals for teachers, students, and parents.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

- Expeditionary Learning school
- 2010 High Performance Colorado Power Library
- Environmental learning programs
- Award-winning extracurriculars
- Discovery Program

Principal: Jeremy Voss

jvoss@durango.k12.co.us

Assistant Principal: Tamara Glaser

tglaser@durango.k12.co.us

Escalante Middle School

141 Baker Lane

Durango, CO 81303

(970) 247-9490

escalante.durangoschools.org





Miller Middle School

“Rigor, Relevance, Relationships”



Miller, an internationally minded middle school, inspires global awareness. Our young leaders make a positive difference in our changing world through inquiry, cross-cultural understanding, and a shared vision of academic excellence. We are committed to an innovative educational system, guaranteeing our learners acquire critical thinking and problem-solving skills necessary to compete and succeed in the 21st century. In partnership with the Durango community, our students achieve confidence and success in their learning through equitable opportunities and rigorous interdisciplinary experiences, sparking a passion for life-long learning.

Miller has integrated the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) into their curriculum, and is the first middle school in the area to introduce the MYP (offering a continuum for IB learners from elementary school to the Atlas SLC at DHS). The IB MYP at Miller emphasizes intellectual challenge, making connections between studies and the real world, to develop critical reflective thinkers and increased global awareness. IB consists of eight subject groups including Spanish (now available from pk-12 grade), humanities, sciences, mathematics, arts, physical education, and technology. These will be taught via areas of interaction including approaches to learning, human ingenuity, community and service, environments, and health and social education.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

- International Baccalaureate school
- Discovery Program
- Co-curricular Activities
- Community garden
- Focus on student ownership of learning

Principal: Cito Nuhn

cnuhn@durango.k12.co.us

Assistant Principal: Vicki Trousdale

vtrousdale@durango.k12.co.us

Miller Middle School

2608 Junction Street

Durango, CO 81301

(970) 247-1418

miller.durangoschools.org





Animas Valley Elementary

“Children First!”



Our vision is to guide learners as we develop the tools and mindsets to continually seek and understand the world and ourselves. Learners will demonstrate confidence, compassion, as well as value diversity. Everyone will leave our school with the ability to apply, transfer and reflect on concept because we are motivated to ask questions and discover solutions.

As an International Baccalaureate school, Animas Valley Elementary stresses the importance of inquiry-based learning. There are several notable initiatives Animas Valley has taken in the last few years. They started the Care and Share Food Bank of Southwestern Colorado Pilot School in the spring of 2011, which aims to fight hunger in the region by sending food-filled backpacks home with students in need. Animas Valley received the Health School Champion Award in the 2010/2011, in which they were recognized for best practices in the areas of health education/services, counseling, nutrition services/education, physical education, family/community involvement, staff wellness and a healthy school environment. Another initiative that Animas Valley is specifically known for is the “Learning Garden,” which provides fun, hands-on learning for students in an outdoor classroom.

Animas Valley Elementary at a glance:

- Healthy School Champion Award – 2010/11
- International Baccalaureate school
- Sustainable Learning Garden
- Backpack Meals Program
- Reach-Out-And-Read Program

Principal: Michol Brammer

mbrammer@durango.k12.co.us

Assistant Principal: Samantha Tower

stower@durango.k12.co.us

Animas Valley Elementary

373 Hermosa Meadows Road

Durango, CO 81301

(970) 247-0124

animasvalley.durangoschools.org





Florida Mesa Elementary

"Florida Mesa's Learning Culture Embraces INTEGRITY"

Florida Mesa is a thriving school community that serves approximately 370 students preschool through fifth grade. The staff is highly committed to supporting all students reach their maximum potential. The academic programming provided to each learner is specifically tailored to individual student needs. The staff uses common formative assessments authentically to inform their instructional approaches. All students receive instruction in the general classroom setting and participate in differentiated literacy and math groups based on their particular learning strengths and needs. Students engage in personal goal setting and monitor their own progress in order to understand their own present levels compared with the grade level expectations. This allows students to take ownership in the learning process and is highly motivating to each student.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

- Inquiry-based studies and personalized learning models
- Dedicated and dynamic staff who support all students
- Extracurricular programs after school including: orchestra, art clubs, nature clubs, robotics club, and Girls on the Run
- Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) School
- Supportive parents, Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and School Accountability Committee (SAC)

Principal: Vanessa Fisher

vfisher@durango.k12.co.us

Assistant Principal: Shannon Morris

smorris@durango.k12.co.us

Florida Mesa Elementary

216 Highway 172

Durango, CO 81303

(970) 247-4250

floridamesa.durangoschools.org





Fort Lewis Mesa Elementary

"Be Safe. Be Responsible. Be Courteous."

Fort Lewis Mesa Elementary takes pride in their strong sense of community. They encourage programs that bring all grade levels together and strengthen the bond between students, parents and staff members. As a learning community, they provide our students with life-long learning skills, strong academics, and an understanding of respect for self and others, in a collaborative and nurturing environment. This has helped them become a top-performing school in closing the achievement gap, and to be recognized two years in a row with the Governor's Distinguished Improvement Award, an award given to schools that demonstrate exceptional student growth.

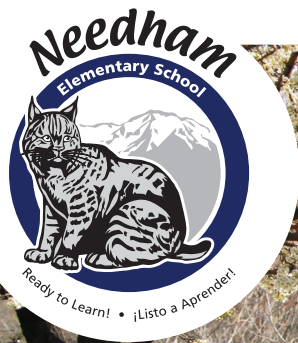
Distinguishing Characteristics:

- High Performance Colorado Power Library
- Community center
- One track school, teachers and staff know every student
- High Growth and High Achievement ratings from CDE
- Recipient of the Governor's Distinguished Improvement Award in 2013 and 2014.

Principal: Karen Gray
kgray@durango.k12.co.us

Fort Lewis Mesa
11274 Highway 140
Hesperus, CO 81326
(970) 588-3331
fortlewismesa.durangoschools.org





Needham Elementary

"Ready to Learn! ¡Listo a Aprender!"



The International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program (IB-PYP) at Needham focuses on providing in-depth learning experiences for students through ongoing, intense collaboration among staff. Grade level teams meet weekly to plan and reflect upon teaching within the IB model in order to improve student learning and teacher instruction. A unique component of the IB-PYP is the Action Cycle (Choose, Act, Reflect), which is embedded into each unit of inquiry and requires students to apply their new learning, rather than just accumulate new knowledge. Throughout the year, students explore six trans-disciplinary themes: Who We Are, Where We Are in Place and Time, How We Express Ourselves, How the World Works, How We Organize Ourselves, and Sharing the Planet. These themes represent the IB curriculum and are carefully linked to each of the Colorado Model Content Standards. Our IB program is designed to teach kids to be internationally-minded and to develop the skills they will need in order to thrive and to lead in an ever-changing global community.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

- One of only 486 International Baccalaureate PYP schools in the United States!
- Inquiry model for instruction teaches students to develop higher-order thinking skills
- International-mindedness and an orientation toward positive action and service are reinforced.
- School garden
- Offers Spanish starting in preschool

Principal: David Tanaka

dtanaka@durango.k12.co.us

Assistant Principal: Laurie Rossback

lrossback@durango.k12.co.us

Needham Elementary

2425 W. Third Avenue

Durango, CO 81301

(970) 247-4791

needham.durangoschools.org





Park Elementary

“Embrace Learning Through Honor and Responsibility”

Park Elementary utilizes inquiry methods and interdisciplinary units based on the Colorado Academic Standards to engage students in authentic learning. The Park culture embraces learning through honor and responsibility. Through the culture statement, Park staff focus on the following five aspects of emotional wellness to help prepare children for each stage of life: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. These beliefs allow children to recognize emotions and values, as well as their individual strengths and limitations; how to manage emotions and behaviors to achieve goals; how to demonstrate understanding and empathy; to attain knowledge on how to form positive relationships and teamwork; and how to make ethical and constructive choices. The school also sets high expectations for all students, through an understanding that students learn differently and at different rates. Through these actions, students can affirm the worth and diversity of the school community, which is respectful, supportive and trusting.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

- Inquiry-based learning
- Intense core literacy program
- Excellent after-school clubs, programs and extended learning opportunities
- Data Teams
- Multi-ethnic school

Principal: Kathleen Lau

klau@durango.k12.co.us

Assistant Principal: Marie Voss-Patterson

mvoss-patterson@durango.k12.co.us

Park Elementary

510 E. 6th Avenue
Durango, CO 81301
(970) 247-3718

park.durangoschools.org





Riverview Elementary

“Respect. Responsibility. Resourcefulness”

The mission of Riverview Elementary is to inspire lifelong passionate learners, thinkers, and doers by building a sense of community, nurturing creative and diverse learners, and promoting student growth through high quality differentiated instruction. Riverview Elementary prides itself on offering a full and well-rounded education program to ensure that students develop their full spectrum of talents as well as grow into positive and productive community members. Riverview has created a new avenue for students to expand their knowledge on subjects that interest them the most. Through their unique ‘Enrichment Program’, they now provide opportunities in addition to core academics that help students explore their individual interests. Specials teachers, classroom teachers, and even the principal host various program offerings, including choir, community outreach, web design and drama. These opportunities are made possible by the collaboration of passionate teachers who are dedicated to creating project-based learning opportunities that meet today’s student interests.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

- Consistent high student performance/achievement
- Dedicated science program
- Enrichment and arts program
- High parent support and involvement
- Outstanding staff

Principal: Doug Geygan

dgeygan@durango.k12.co.us

Assistant Principal: Andy Martinez

amartinez@durango.k12.co.us

Riverview Elementary

2900 Mesa Avenue

Durango, CO 81301

(970) 247-3862

riverview.durangoschools.org





Sunnyside Elementary

"Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Responsible and Be a Problem Solver!"

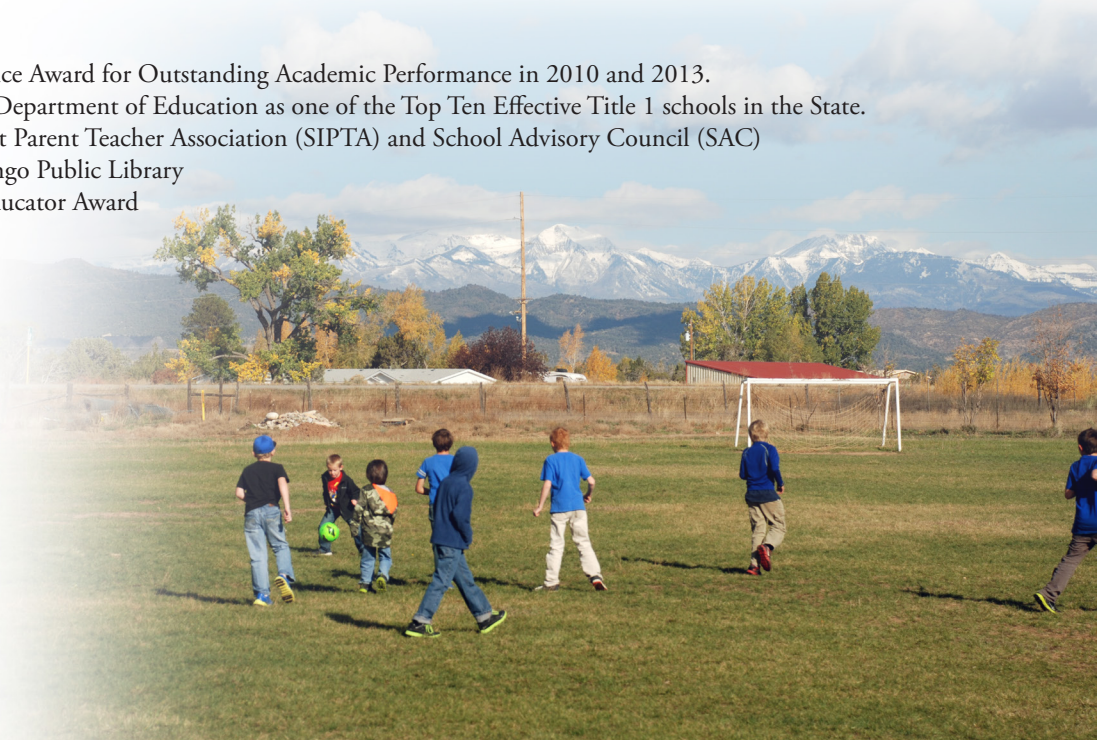
Sunnyside Elementary is a dedicated and thriving school community focused on the social, emotional, and academic growth of each student. Teachers are passionate about their craft and strive to do whatever it takes to help all students succeed in their learning. Sunnyside has a strong literacy program which provides each student with instruction based on his/her unique strengths and needs. They offer after-school choir and/or orchestra, and community programs which include: School Buddies through Big Brothers Big Sisters, Durango Nature Studies, and Durango Arts Center. Sunnyside students have strong character and they work daily to exceed expectations surrounding the four Be's: Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Responsible, and Be a Problem Solver. This year, the students are building on their strong character as they strive to become Bulldog Scholars who open their minds, take educational risks, persevere, and reflect on their learning. Additionally, a robust amount parent and community volunteerism makes Sunnyside a truly special place.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

- John Irwin School of Excellence Award for Outstanding Academic Performance in 2010 and 2013.
- Recognized by the Colorado Department of Education as one of the Top Ten Effective Title 1 schools in the State.
- Active Sunnyside Independent Parent Teacher Association (SIPTA) and School Advisory Council (SAC)
- Houses a branch of the Durango Public Library
- 2015 Milken Outstanding Educator Award

Principal: Dylan Connell
dconnell@durango.k12.co.us

Sunnyside Elementary
75 County Road 218
Durango, CO 81303
(970) 259-5249
sunnyside.durangoschools.org





Shared School

“Enriching Our Students’ Lives”

Shared Schooling is a unique program offered by Durango School District 9-R that gives homeschool families another choice in educating their children. The homeschool provides the content for skill development in literacy and numeracy while the Shared School engages students in discovery, practice, and inquiry in Art, Music, Spanish, Creative Writing, PE and more. Typically, these content areas are the most challenging for homeschool families to offer. We value creativity, collaboration, hands-on experiences, and growth. Shared Schooling elementary students attend the school on Tuesdays and Thursdays and middle school students attend on Wednesdays. Shared School students attend school 90 hours a semester, which is the equivalent of six hours per week. The elementary and middle level Shared School programs meet in the lower level of Miller Middle School where we have a dynamic program that truly engages students in enrichment learning activities.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

- Students participate in a full day of engaging enrichment activities.
- Small school setting where teachers know all students.
- A great opportunity for Home School students to interact with their peers.
- Access to arts and partners
- Instructional models that incorporate the whole child



Principal: John Marchino Jr.
jmarchino@durango.k12.co.us

Shared School
2608 Junction Street
Durango, CO 81301
(970) 247-5411 ext 1105
sharingschooling.durangoschools.org



The Juniper School

A new elementary charter school coming soon!

The Juniper School is a kindergarten through 5th grade charter school which will open Fall 2016. The Juniper School is committed to building an authentic, diverse and active learning environment for the children of our community, through the establishment of a free, public, charter elementary school.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

- Small class sizes
- Multi-age classes
- Authentic performance assessments
- Place-based environmental education

For more information:

The Juniper School

PO Box 655

Durango, CO 81302

thejuniperschool@gmail.com

thejuniperschool.com





Mountain Middle School

“Elevate Your Learning”

Mountain Middle School will work with each student to achieve their highest academic and social potential in an educational framework of problem-solving, cross-subject application, and teamwork. Within a supportive and safe culture, Mountain Middle School integrates technology and project-based learning into a rigorous liberal arts curriculum that prepares students to succeed in the 21st century as self-motivated, innovative thinkers who seek to resolve challenges collaboratively.

Mountain Middle School students are challenged, engaged, and motivated through a project-based learning curriculum including: science, math (8 small, cross-grade math groups organize students by skill level), digital media, art, humanities and language arts. Students choose Student Interest Groups (SIG) for elective classes; these include world language (23 languages), individualized instruction to address academic needs and giftedness, chess, yearbook, academic bowl, student council, and music at the Stillwater Foundation.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

- In place of traditional grading and exams, students create exhibitions and formal presentations of learning.
- Student-led conferences require students to summarize their progress, challenges, and accomplishments.
- All students are provided laptops to complete their work. Students learn how to utilize 3-D printers, laser cutter, and coding.
- Internship requirement for all 8th grade students.
- Free, public, state chartered school for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students.

Head of School: Shane Voss

shane.voss@mountainmiddleschool.org

Mountain Middle School

108 West 31st Street

Durango, CO 81301

(970) 828-5600

mountainmiddleschool.org

TED^x
Mountain Middle School
= independently organized TED event





Animas High School

"A Culture of Excellence"

Animas High School is a tuition-free, public charter school offering a rigorous, personalized, college-preparatory curriculum that is both engaging and meaningful. Its inclusive school culture welcomes students socially and challenges them academically. Animas delivers its curriculum through direct instruction and projects that give students the opportunity to apply their learning in relevant, real world ways. Students develop strong relationships with their teachers and are inspired to excel and achieve their academic goals. In 2011, Animas High was named a John Irwin School of Excellence by the Colorado Department of Education, recognizing AHS in the top 8% of Colorado public schools. In both the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years AHS received the state's top ranking: Performance with Distinction. Animas High School graduated its first class of seniors in May 2013. 100% of Animas seniors that applied to college were accepted.

Distinguishing characteristics:

- Rigorous academics, where all students are prepared for college success.
- A culture of excellence, where students are held to high expectations.
- Strong faculty-student relationships, where students are well known.
- Engaging education, where students discover the relevance of their learning.

Head of School: Sean Woytek

Sean.Woytek@animashighschool.org

Animas High School

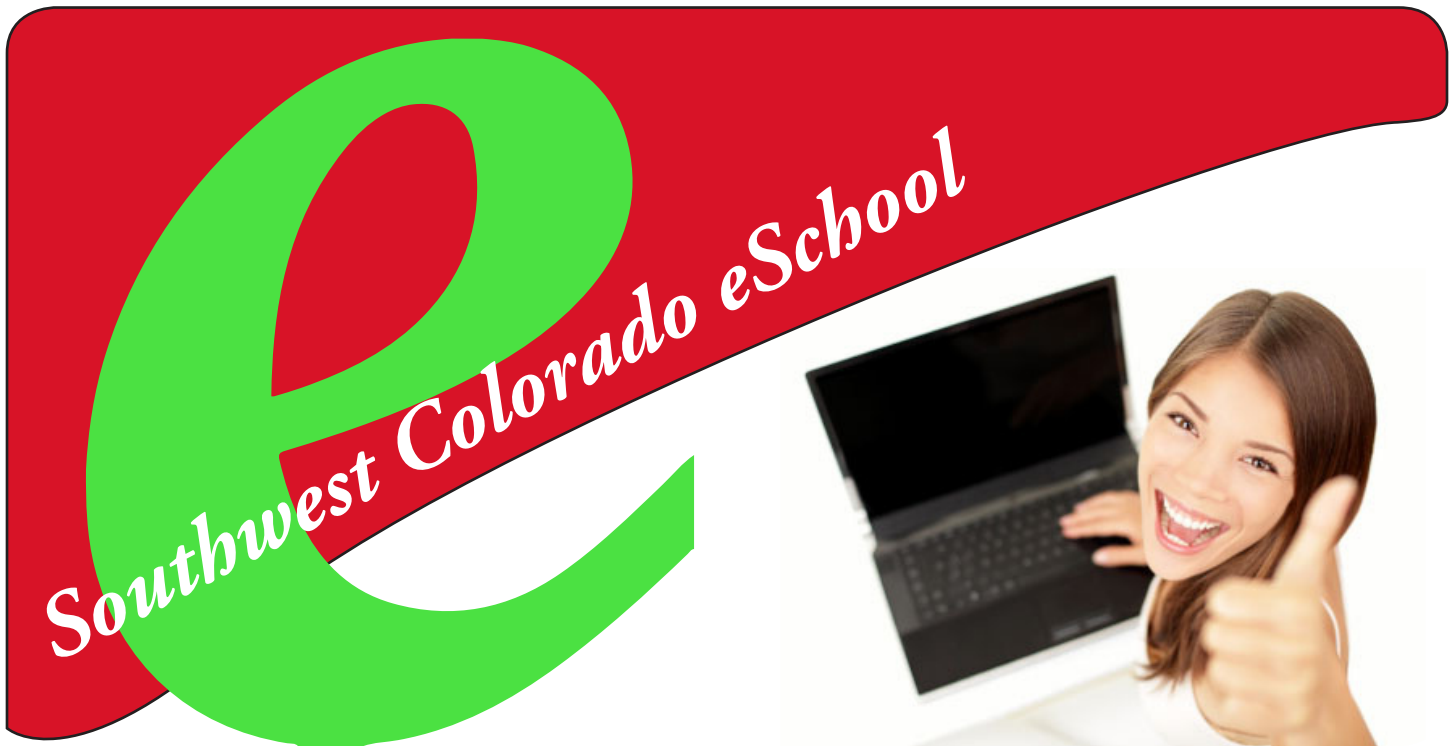
20091 Hwy 160

Durango, CO 81301

(970) 247-2474

animashighschool.com





Southwest Colorado eSchool

"Learn Differently Anywhere"

The vision of the Southwest Colorado eSchool (SWCeS) is to ensure that all students who enter our learning community have access to expanded learning opportunities involving strong instructor support that contributes to a high school diploma with the skills and knowledge needed for post-secondary study or workforce readiness.

The Southwest Colorado eSchool is a public online secondary school serving students in grades 7-12 offered through the San Juan Board of Cooperative Education Services. All courses are completely online. Students work independent of traditional school buildings and schedules but work closely with certified teachers in each course. Participation and work submission is key to demonstrating adequate daily progress and the ability to be an independent online learner. Students may enroll for full-time study and work towards a diploma or they may take one or two supplemental courses with the approval of their school counselor or administrator. Drop-in Learning Centers in Durango and Dolores host Academic Advisors to support student needs.

Distinguishing Characteristics

- Flexible but rigorous learning schedule
- Expanded learning opportunities with courses not offered at regional schools
- Highly-qualified teachers direct progress through semester-long courses
- Regional Learning Centers support students' independent learning habits
- Local advisors support diverse post-secondary plans

Principal: Mike Freeburn

mfreeburn@southwestcoloradoeschool.org

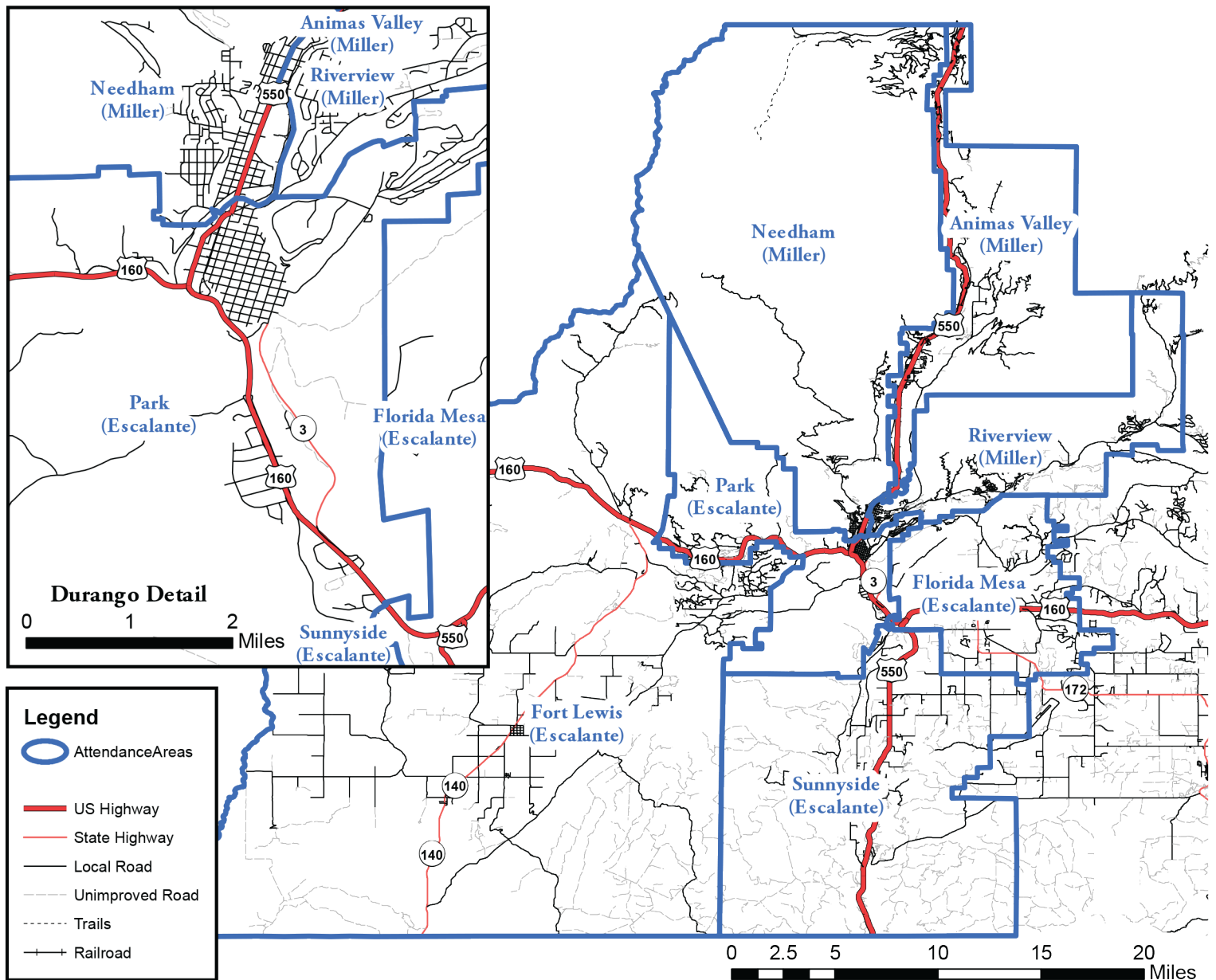
Southwest Colorado eSchool

201 East 12th Street
Durango, CO 81301
(970) 403-0946

southwestcoloradoeschool.org



Durango Attendance Areas



Where Will My Student Attend School?

Generally speaking, where you live in the district determines where your child attends school. Three elementary schools fall within city limits and four elementary schools fall in outlying areas. Middle school attendance depends upon the elementary school attendance area in which you reside (Middle schools shown in parentheses above).

We have a wonderful tool available to help determine which area your address falls into. You can find it at: <http://durangoschools.org/maps/DurangoEsBndys.htm> or scan the QR Code to the right.

Open Enrollment and school choice is available on a space available, first-come, first-served basis.

