

Aurora Public Schools

Points of Pride



Students

- APS is one of Colorado's largest and most diverse school districts. APS students come from more than 90 countries and speak more than 100 languages.
- APS exceeded the overall state median CSAP growth percentile (50th percentile) in all three areas assessed for the third year in a row.
- The Class of 2010 graduated with more than \$7 million in scholarships and included nine Daniels Fund and two Gates Millennium scholarship recipients. Thirteen students from the Class of 2010 earned high school diplomas *and* associate's degrees.
- The Rebound Ombudsman program gives expelled and dropout students the opportunity to return to high school and complete their graduation requirements.
- America's Promise Alliance has named Aurora as one of the "100 Best Communities for Young People." Aurora was selected for its quality of life and the strong partnership between Aurora Public Schools, Cherry Creek Schools and the City of Aurora.
- **Jaleel Awini**, the **Rangeview High School** quarterback, is the 2010 Gatorade Colorado Player of the Year. Jaleel was selected for athletic excellence, academic achievement and good character.
- **Felipe Garcia** from **Aurora Central High School** is one of only 500 students in the nation who earned the National Scholastic Art and Writing Gold Medal Award for his artwork.

District

- All elementary and K-8 schools in Aurora Public Schools offer free, full-day kindergarten.
- APS is partnering with economic development, higher education, industry and workforce development to offer academic and career pathways at 18 schools. Pathways will be offered in all APS schools by 2015. The four pathways offered are Arts and Communication; Business; Health Sciences and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.
- Pickens Technical College, a career and technical education training center for high school students and adults, offers more than 50 program areas that lead to certificates and associate's degrees.
- Tollgate and Yale Elementary along with William Smith High are Expeditionary Learning schools that focus on promoting critical-thinking skills and habits, academic achievement and personal development through in-depth investigations.
- APS has three autonomous schools known as "Pilot Schools" that offer unique learning opportunities and a focus on science, math and expeditionary learning.
- William Smith was selected as a National Mentor School by the Expeditionary Learning Schools Network. Only 20 schools across the nation have earned this distinction.





- Hinkley High, Aurora Hills Middle and Wheeling Elementary offer International Baccalaureate Programmes for K-12 students through a rigorous, academically challenging curriculum focused on intercultural understanding.
 - APS offers a voluntary Fifth Block of Instruction, which provides 23 additional days of learning in math or literacy for students who could benefit most from additional learning time.
 - The Colorado Department of Education has named Boston K-8, Fletcher Intermediate, Montview Elementary, Tollgate Elementary, Virginia Court Elementary and Yale Elementary as Centers of Excellence for having high rates of student academic growth, as measured by the Colorado Growth Model, and a student population that is at least 75 percent at-risk. Montview, Tollgate and Yale have won the award two years in a row.
- In 2011, Virginia Court Elementary School won the Community Partnership Award – one of 12 Commissioner’s Choice Awards – from the Colorado Legacy Foundation for its innovative partnership with The Learning Source.

APS Bond and Mill Levy

- Thanks to the support of Aurora voters, a \$215 million bond was passed in 2008. The bond is funding improvements at every school as well as new schools. In addition to the bond, voters also approved a \$14.7 million mill levy to fund educational programs.

Board of Education

- The APS Board of Education earned the 2009 All State School Board Award from the Colorado Association of School Boards.

Staff

- The Colorado Association of School Executives named **Superintendent John L. Barry** the 2011 Colorado Superintendent of the Year. Superintendent Barry was also designated the Aurora Civitan Club’s “Citizen of the Year” and earned the “Educator of the Year” award from Shades of Blue.
- APS staff members have won a variety of awards for their commitment to students and the district:
 - **Andrea McCarthy, Aurora West College Preparatory Academy** – 2011 Central District Middle School Physical Education Teacher of the Year
 - **Barbara Cooper**, Chief Equity and Engagement Officer – 2011 Denver Classroom Teachers Association Black Caucus Educator Leader of the Year
 - **Clayton Ellis, Aurora Central High School** – 2010 National High School Physical Education Teacher of the Year
 - **Shannon Michel**, APS Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant – 2010 Agatha Jackson COTA Award of Excellence from the Occupational Therapy Association of Colorado
 - **Principal Jane Shirley, William Smith High School** - 2010 Wright Way Award from the Colorado Principals’ Center
 - **Catherine Hepburn, Laredo Elementary School** – 2010 Colorado Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Pathfinder Award
 - **Victoria Montoya, Sable Elementary School** – 2010 Colorado Language, Culture and Equity Educator of the Year
 - **Pam Williamson-Rybolt, Aurora West College Preparatory Academy** – 2010 Colorado Title I Distinguished Teacher Award

