

Education

Although there is educational mobility available, the majority of school aged children attend schools in their geographic proximity, either by location in a public school district or proximity to a public charter or private school. This is not always the case, as children can transfer to public schools far outside their school district and charter and private schools are available no matter where the student lives. Additionally, home school is an option for children that allows families to live and educate their children anywhere.

If Los Ranchos is interested in attracting younger people and families, usually those in the Millennial and Generation X generations, the quality of the schools in and around the village can be a factor. According to the 2017 Home Buyer and Seller Generational Trends Report from the National Association of Realtors, the quality of the school district is the fourth and fifth highest factor out of sixteen factors that influence neighborhood choice for Generation X and Millennials respectively. The neighborhood’s convenience to schools is also important, at fifth and sixth for Generation X and Millennials respectively. For Baby Boomers and the Silent Generation, these factors are not nearly as high a priority.

Factors Influencing Neighborhood Choice (National Association of Realtors)												
	Millennials ≤ 36		Gen X 37-51		Boomers 52-70		(Younger BB) 52-61		(Older BB) 62-70		Silent Gen 71+	
	Ranking	Percent	Ranking	Percent	Ranking	Percent	Ranking	Percent	Ranking	Percent	Ranking	Percent
Quality of neighborhood	1	66%	1	61%	1	54.5%	1	54%	1	55%	1	58%
Convenient to job	2	65%	2	49%	2	25.5%	2	37%	8	14%	14	3%
Overall affordability of homes	3	50%	3	37%	4	35%	4	32%	3	38%	5	28%
Convenient to friends/family	4	43%	6	28%	3	38%	3	33%	2	43%	2	44%
Quality of school district	5	40%	4	35%	12	8%	10	11%	13	5%	12	4%
Convenient to shopping	8	22%	7	22%	5	25%	5	22%	4	28%	3	39%
Design of neighborhood	11	17%	10	18%	5	25%	5	22%	4	28%	4	29%
Convenient to ent/leisure activities	7	25%	8	19%	7	17.5%	7	17%	6	18%	6	16%
Convenient to schools	6	30%	5	31%	14	4.5%	14	5%	14	4%	15	2%
Convenient to parks/rec facilities	9	22%	11	17%	8	14.5%	9	13%	7	16%	8	12%
Availability of larger lots/acreage	10	18%	8	19%	9	14%	8	15%	9	13%	11	7%
Home in planned community	13	5%	12	8%	10	10.5%	11	8%	9	13%	7	15%
Convenient to airport	13	5%	13	6%	13	7.5%	13	6%	11	9%	10	8%
Convenient to public transportation	12	6%	13	6%	14	4.5%	14	5%	14	4%	12	4%
Convenient to health facilities	16	1%	16	1%	16	2%	16	2%	16	2%	16	1%
Other	15	4%	15	4%	11	8.5%	11	8%	11	9%	9	9%

Specifically for home buyers that have children under 18, regardless of generation, the importance of school districts and convenience is even greater.¹

- 49% of home buyers with children base their neighborhood choice on the quality of the school districts, compared to 12% without children.
- 43% of home buyers with children base their neighborhood choice by the convenience to schools, compared to 6% without children.

¹ National Association of Realtors. (2017). 2017 Moving with Kids.

Education in APS and New Mexico

Students

About 61% of New Mexico public school students were Hispanic in SY (school year) 2016-17, 25% white, and 11% Native American. Over 71% of students participate in the federal free or reduced-priced lunch program compared to 52% nationally. Over 13% of students are English Language Learners (ELL) and about 15% participate in special education programs.²

Public School Districts

“Albuquerque Public Schools is among the largest school districts in the United States, with about 84,000 students, 14,000 employees and 142 schools.”³ This can be beneficial, as there are “more resources, more choices and more opportunities as well as economies of scale.”⁴

However, there are reasons to divide the school district into smaller groups based on the elementary and middle schools that feed into the high schools. Implemented SY 2017-18, the Academic Master Plan’s Learning Zones divide the APS school district into four learning zones that group three or four high schools and their elementary and middle school feeders into a zone. Each learning zone has around 21,000 students in about 35 schools. Each is supposed to have an associate superintendent and support staff to help with training, instruction, data collection and interpretation, technology, testing, and special education.⁵ Los Ranchos schools feed into Valley High School, which is in Learning Zone 3 and grouped with Cibola and Volcano Vista High Schools. When referring to the quality of the school district, it is more appropriate to refer to the schools in one’s cluster and the smaller neighborhood boundary maps.

Public school district boundaries are not limited by only geography, as students can transfer between districts. “Students who live in the attendance area of a school which has received an “F” rating for two of the last four school years can request a transfer and have second priority when requesting a transfer to a school with a higher rating.”⁶ This second priority is behind students who live in the established attendance boundaries for a school. Though this is an option, there may be other issues preventing students from transferring between districts, such as transportation and time costs to get to the other school.

Academic Master Plan

This plan has been implemented as of SY 2017-18 and focuses on three goals (early learning, college and career readiness, and developing the whole child) for students in APS schools. Additional focuses are attendance and parent and community engagement. These goals will be measured through a performance framework looking at school culture and climate, student growth and achievement, student engagement, and parent and community involvement. Each goal is further detailed with strategies, action steps, and possible performance indicators.⁷

PARCC

PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) is one of several standardized tests that students and schools are measured by. It is the main testing indicator for schools, as the Standards Based Assessment (SBA) is no longer used for school grading, NMAPA is for students with profound cognitive disabilities, and DIBELS/ISTation is for those K-2.⁸ According to 2018 PARCC results, in APS 30.4% of students are proficient in English and 21.3% proficient in math, an increase in both areas since 2017.⁹ These results are the highest scores in both math and reading since the PARCC was implemented in 2015. 2018 is also the year with the least number of opt-outs for the

² New Mexico Kids Can. (2018). State of Education in New Mexico 2018.

³ Albuquerque Public Schools. www.aps.edu/schools. Accessed July 2018.

^{4,5} Albuquerque Public Schools. www.aps.edu/academics/academic-master-plan/welcome-to-the-lz. Accessed July 2018.

⁶ Albuquerque Public Schools. www.aps.edu/schools/transfers/transfers. Accessed July 2018.

⁷ Albuquerque Public Schools. www.aps.edu/academics/academic-master-plan. Accessed July 2018.

⁸ Skandera, H. (2016). New Mexico School Grading Technical Guide Calculation and Business Rules V1.2.

⁹ Perea, S. (2018). NM, APS PARCC scores up in English, math. Albuquerque Journal.

PARCC tests. While APS English and Math PARCC scores are not consistently improving year-by-year, New Mexico PARCC English proficiency has consistently improved every year and is generally improving for math.

Enrollment

The APS school district has declining enrollment overall, with predictions that enrollment will continue to decline, which can negatively affect budgeting. The most enrollment declines are for kindergarteners, which can be concerning for APS as that is the beginning of public school enrollment. Lower birth rates and students moving to charter schools, other districts in New Mexico, or other states are mentioned as factors behind the declining enrollment trend.¹⁰ Children are increasingly enrolled in alternative school options, such as charter schools, private schools, or homeschool, but this decline in public school enrollment is not dispersed evenly throughout APS, as Albuquerque Westside school enrollment is stronger than the east, which is consolidating schools.

In New Mexico overall, public school enrollment shows a similar decline. Public school enrollment has declined slightly by 2,000 students since SY 2014-15, when it peaked. Private school enrollment is almost stagnant, declining by 450 students, while public charter school enrollment has grown by 5,000 students. Pre-K through 12 charter school enrollment has steadily increased as a percentage of total public school enrollment in New Mexico, from 3.2% in SY 2007-08 to 7.4% in SY 2016-17.¹¹

School Improvements

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) signed at the end of 2015 has changed the way that focus or priority schools are decided. There are three tiers of struggling school interventions, each with increasing intervention needs:

- Targeted School Improvement (TSI)
- Comprehensive School Improvement (CSI)
- More Rigorous Intervention (MRI)

Los Ranchos ES, Taft MS, and Valley HS are on the Targeted School Improvement list for 2017-2021. These schools “will work on ways to close the achievement gap and improve student progress.”¹² Los Ranchos ES, Alvarado ES, Taft MS, Taylor MS, and Valley HS are NOT listed as schools in need of CSI or MRI.

Teachers

There are teacher shortages in New Mexico and across the country. APS has the highest overall need for teachers, and the hardest areas to fill are teachers for bilingual education, math, science, and special education.¹³

Teacher Evaluation¹⁴

Public school teachers are evaluated through NMTEACH Educator Effectiveness System.

The following is the evaluation rubric for teachers with 1-3 years of student achievement data:

- 35% Student achievement/growth (improvements) in test scores over past two years (*NOT proficiency, only improvement)
- 40% Observations (minimum 2)
- 15% Planning, preparation, and professionalism (teachers submit documents and artifacts to be scored)
- 5% Student or parent survey (parent for those K-2)
- 5% Teacher attendance

¹⁰ Burgess, K. (2016). APS hit with dwindling enrollment. Albuquerque Journal.

¹¹ New Mexico Kids Can. (2018). State of Education in New Mexico 2018.

¹² Reedy, R. (2017). Improving Schools under the Every Student Succeeds Act. www.aps.edu/about-us/superintendent/superintendents-message/improving-schools-under-the-every-student-succeeds-act.

¹³ Perea, S. (2018). New Mexico faces shortage of teachers. Albuquerque Journal.

¹⁴ New Mexico Kids Can. (2018). What is NMTEACH? A Look at New Mexico's Teacher Evaluation System.

For teachers who do not have student achievement data in the last three years, evaluations are 50% classroom observations, 40% planning, preparation, and professionalism, 5% surveys, and 5% teacher attendance.

Evaluations prior to SY 2016-17 were slightly different, with growth in test scores comprising 50% of the evaluation and observation comprising 25%. All other factors were the same.

Teachers – Education in America

Reports from The New Teacher Project, an organization that works with school districts to develop and execute quality focused education plans, address several issues in teacher evaluation and retention. Their focus, supported by many of their publications, is on the importance of individual teacher effectiveness. This can be seen in the Widget Effect, the assumption that teachers are interchangeable when it comes to classroom effectiveness, and it impacts performance recognition and improvement through evaluations and feedback from school administrators.¹⁵ However, individual teachers are incredibly important, as “...Improving teacher quality is one of the most powerful ways—if not the most powerful way—to create better schools. In fact, a student assigned to a very good teacher for a single school year may gain up to a full year’s worth of additional academic growth compared to a student assigned to a very poor teacher...Give high-need students three highly effective teachers in a row and they may outperform students taught by three ineffective teachers in a row by as much as 50 percentile points.”¹⁶

To identify and support effective teachers, past success is the best predictor and evaluation systems are a way to look at past success. The New Teacher Project recommends evaluation design standards that at least annually and ideally frequently evaluate teachers, base expectations on student learning instead of teacher behaviors or routines, measure performance in multiple ways, differentiate teachers through multiple utilized scores, and are significant on outcomes.¹⁷ Alongside teachers, school leadership and culture have an impact on student performance. A study compared high-performing charter schools in the Boston area to those around the country and found that school leadership helps to create an environment of quality instruction and student achievement, partially due to retention of high-performing teachers. The consequence of poor leadership is evident, as “schools with weak cultures stand to lose their effective teachers at 1.5 times the rate as schools with stronger cultures.”¹⁸ Since individual effective teachers are important to student achievement, school leadership is also important as it better retains effective teachers. The New Teacher Project identified that those high-performing school leaders focus on consistent learning environments through behavioral standards and academic curriculum, teacher development through multiple evaluations per month that provide actionable feedback, early hiring with a high bar, and proper responses to performance, such as identifying leadership opportunities. This sets clear expectations for effective teaching, improves teacher instruction, and promotes a common vision among teachers.¹⁹

Other reports by The New Teacher Project address the importance of teacher pay,²⁰ school environment and principals affecting teacher retention,²¹ and other factors for teacher retention.²²

^{15, 16} The New Teacher Project. (2009). The Widget Effect – Our National Failure to Acknowledge and Act on Differences in Teacher Effectiveness.

¹⁷ The New Teacher Project. (2010). Teacher Evaluation 2.0.

^{18, 19} The New Teacher Project. (2014). Greenhouse Schools in Boston – School Leadership Practices Across a High-Performing Charter Sector.

²⁰ The New Teacher Project. (2014). Shortchanged – The Hidden Costs of Lockstep Teacher Pay.

²¹ The New Teacher Project. (2012). The Irreplaceables – Understanding the real Retention Crisis in America’s Urban Schools.

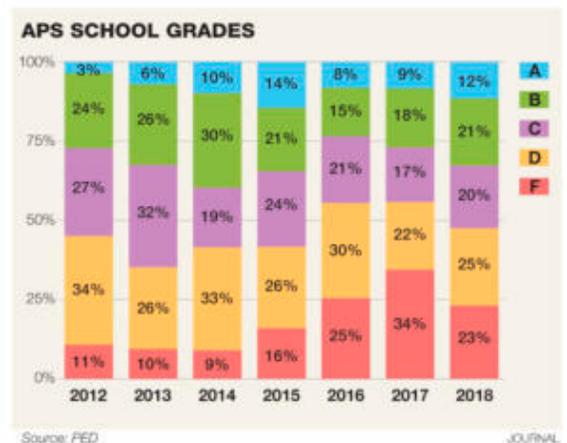
The New Teacher Project. (2012). Keeping Irreplaceables in D.C. Public Schools – Lessons in Smart Teacher Retention.

²² The New Teacher Project. (2012). Greenhouse Schools – How Schools Can Build Cultures Where Teachers and Students Thrive.

School Grades

School grades are an official assessment for all APS schools and public charter schools. It has been used since SY 2011-12. Prior, schools were graded using Adequate Yearly Progress. In 2018, slightly less than half (48%) of APS schools were graded D or F. Elementary and middle school grades as of SY 2016-17 were created based on the following: ²³

- 40% current standing (recent school year student performance based on math and reading proficiency, which is meeting targets for grade level)
- 10% school growth (in past 3 years was there an increase in student performance overall)
- 20% growth of higher performing students (top 75% of school)
- 20% growth of lowest performing students (bottom 25% of school)
- 10% opportunity to learn (positive learning environment measured through student attendance and classroom/parent survey)



Source: Albuquerque Journal

High school grades add a couple categories for graduation and college and career readiness that adjust the proportion of grades: ²⁴

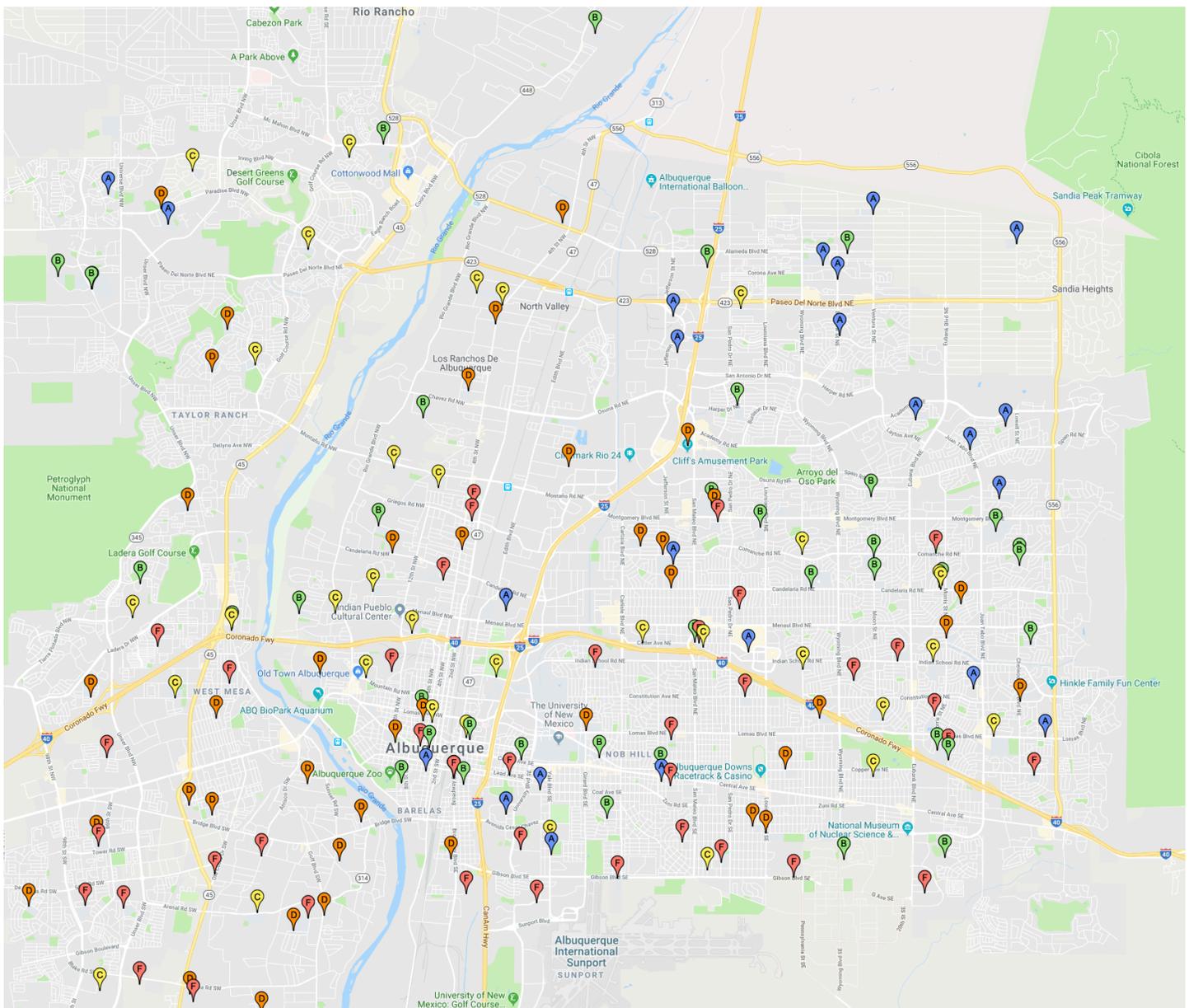
- 30% current standing (recent school year student performance based on math and reading proficiency, which is meeting targets for grade level)
- 10% school growth (in past 3 years was there an increase in student performance overall)
- 10% growth of higher performing students (top 75% of school)
- 10% growth of lower performing students (bottom 25% of school)
- 8% opportunity to learn (positive learning environment measured through student attendance and classroom/parent survey)
- 17% graduation (on-time/4-year graduation or within 5-6 years for longer enrolled students)
- 15% college and career readiness (preparation for after high school)

“According to a recent report from Education Commission of the States, New Mexico has one of the most robust accountability systems in the country and uses more distinct factors to rate its K-12 schools than any other state’s school rating system. ...To make the grading process fair for schools of different sizes and student demographics, New Mexico uses Value-Added Modeling (VAM) to create a holistic picture of each school’s impact on student achievement relative to the performance of other similar students and schools.”²⁵

^{23, 24, 25} New Mexico Kids Can. (2018). How Are Schools Graded? A Look at New Mexico’s School Accountability System.

Public Schools & Public Charter Schools Grades

In New Mexico, “both traditional public schools and public charter schools received an approximately equivalent distribution of school grades in the 2016-17 school year. 14% of traditional schools and 15% of public charter schools were graded A that year, while 15% of traditional schools and 18% of public charter schools were graded F.”²⁶



This map shows SY 2017-18 school grades for public and public charter schools around the Albuquerque Metropolitan Area. Private schools are not graded.

²⁶ New Mexico Kids Can. (2018). State of Education in New Mexico 2018.

Los Ranchos Schools

Public Charter Schools

Charter schools are tuition-free public schools that can set goals and make decisions for curriculum, staff, and budget that are normally determined at the district level.²⁷ “Charter schools differ from public and magnet schools in that they operate independently from school districts and are held accountable by an entity called an authorizer. In New Mexico, there are two different authorizers: New Mexico Public Education Commission and school districts. Charter schools operate under a performance contract with their authorizer. This gives them more autonomy to serve student needs in return for a commitment to meet higher standards of accountability.”²⁸ There are 29 charter schools authorized by APS in the APS school district, though information is subject to change as schools open and close.²⁹

North Valley Academy is the only public charter school in Los Ranchos but there are other charter schools nearby, such as Cottonwood Classical Preparatory School, Mountain Mahogany Community School, Los Puentes Charter School, Montessori of the Rio Grande Charter School, and Los Ninos Montessori School.

Private Schools

Victory Christian School is the only private school in Los Ranchos and serves elementary, middle, and high school students. Nearby private schools include Manzano Day School, Pathways Academy, Montessori Elementary and Middle School, St. Pius X High School, Sandia Preparatory School, Bosque School, and Albuquerque Academy. Unlike public charter schools or APS schools, private schools are not subject to the state’s accountability system and do not receive a letter grade.

Public Schools

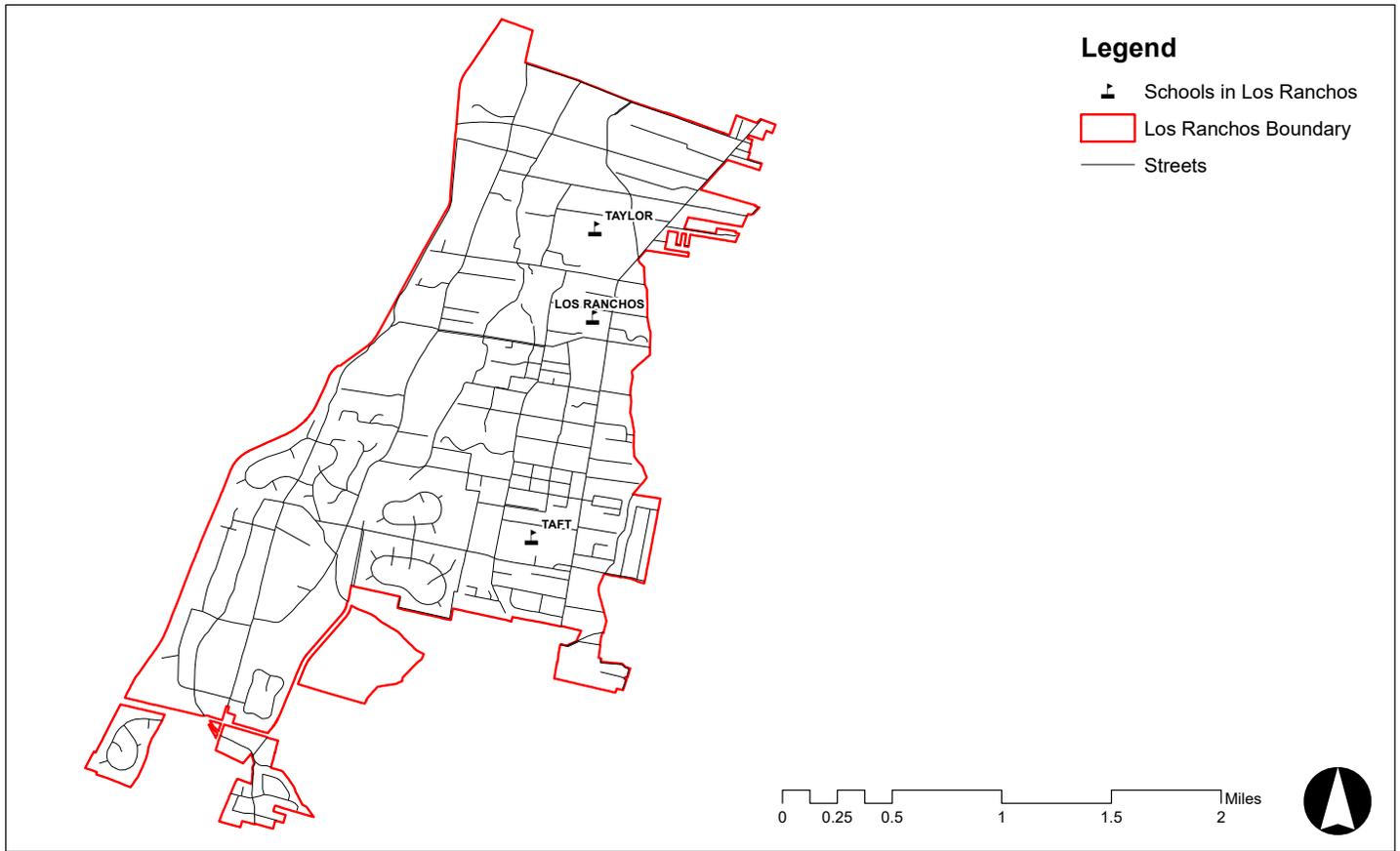
Los Ranchos has three public schools located within its boundaries: Los Ranchos Elementary School, Taft Middle School, and Taylor Middle School. Children who attend public school at these middle schools go on to Valley High School, outside of Village boundaries. Students south of the Village who attend Griegos Elementary School and Garfield Middle School join students from Taft and Taylor at Valley High School.

²⁷ New Mexico Kids Can. (2018). What Are Charter Schools? A Look at New Mexico’s Charter School Landscape.

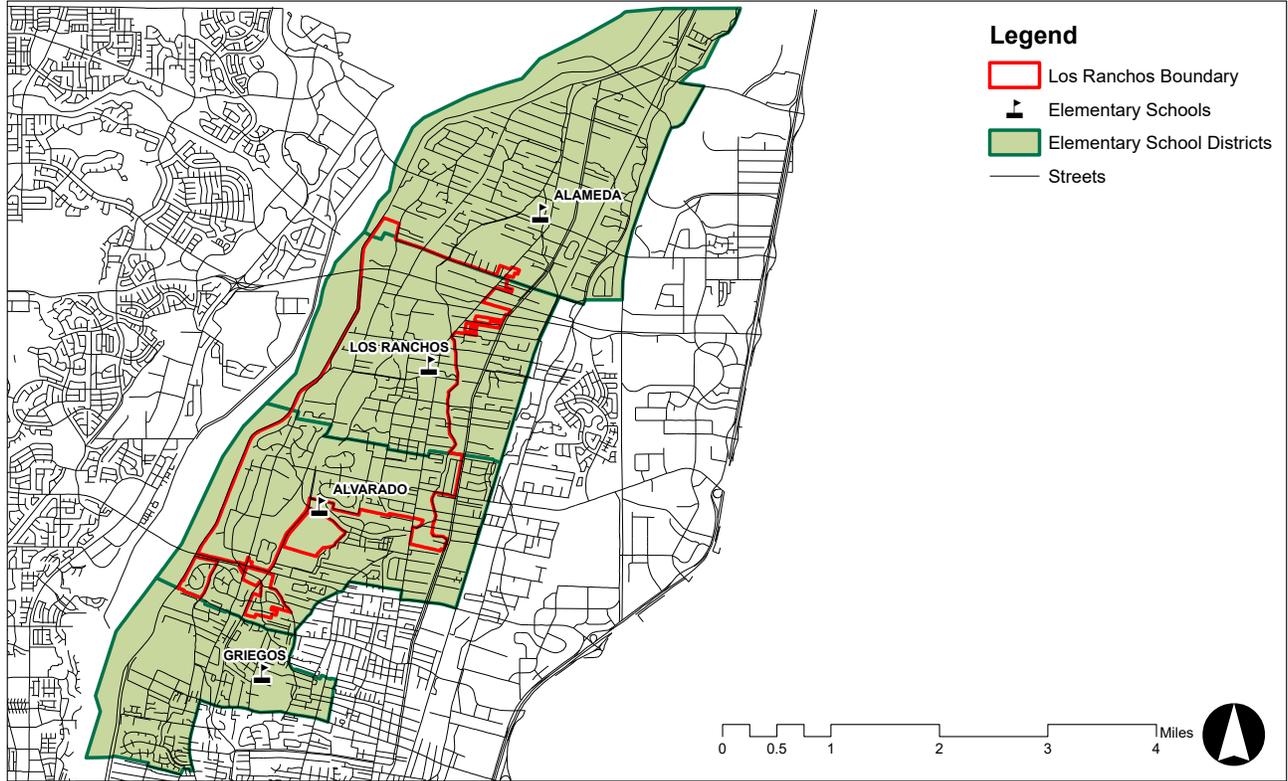
²⁸ Albuquerque Public Schools. Charter Schools. www.aps.edu/charter-schools. Accessed July 2018.

²⁹ Albuquerque Public Schools. School Directory: Charter. www.aps.edu/schools/schools. Accessed August 2018.

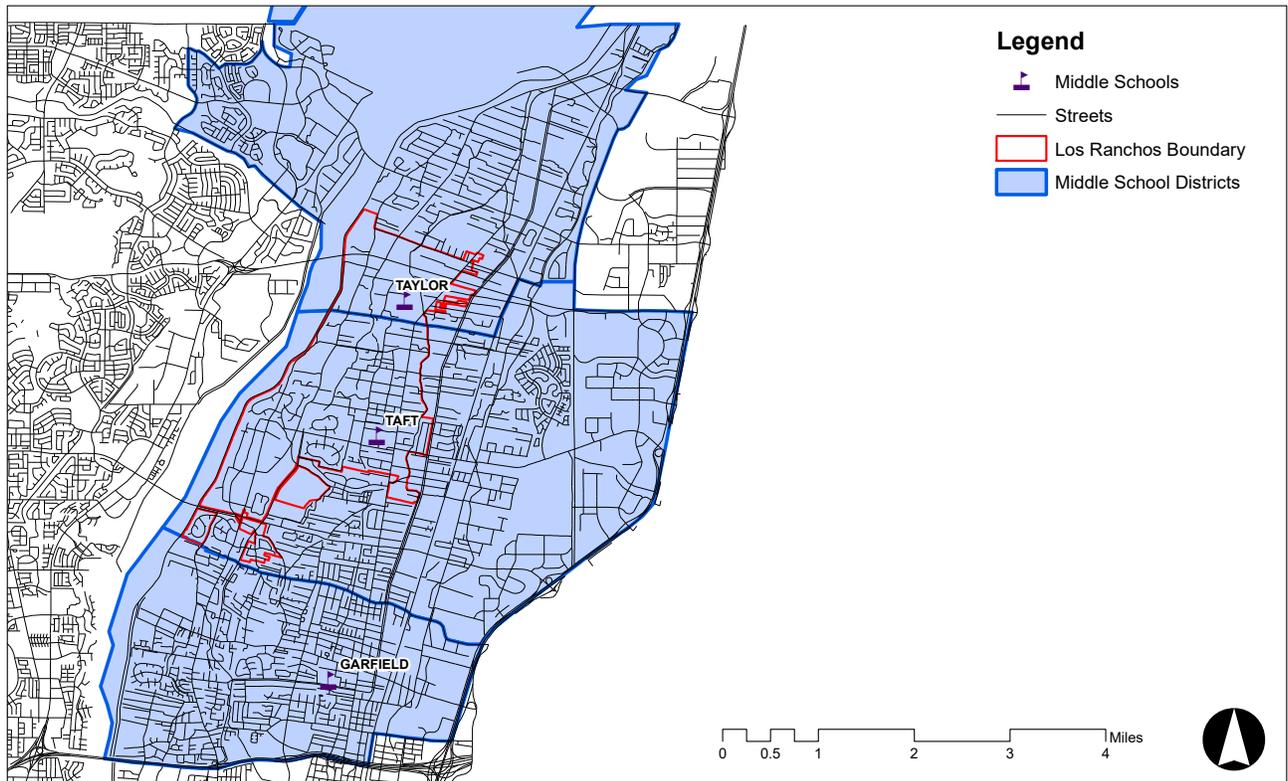
Schools in the Village of Los Ranchos



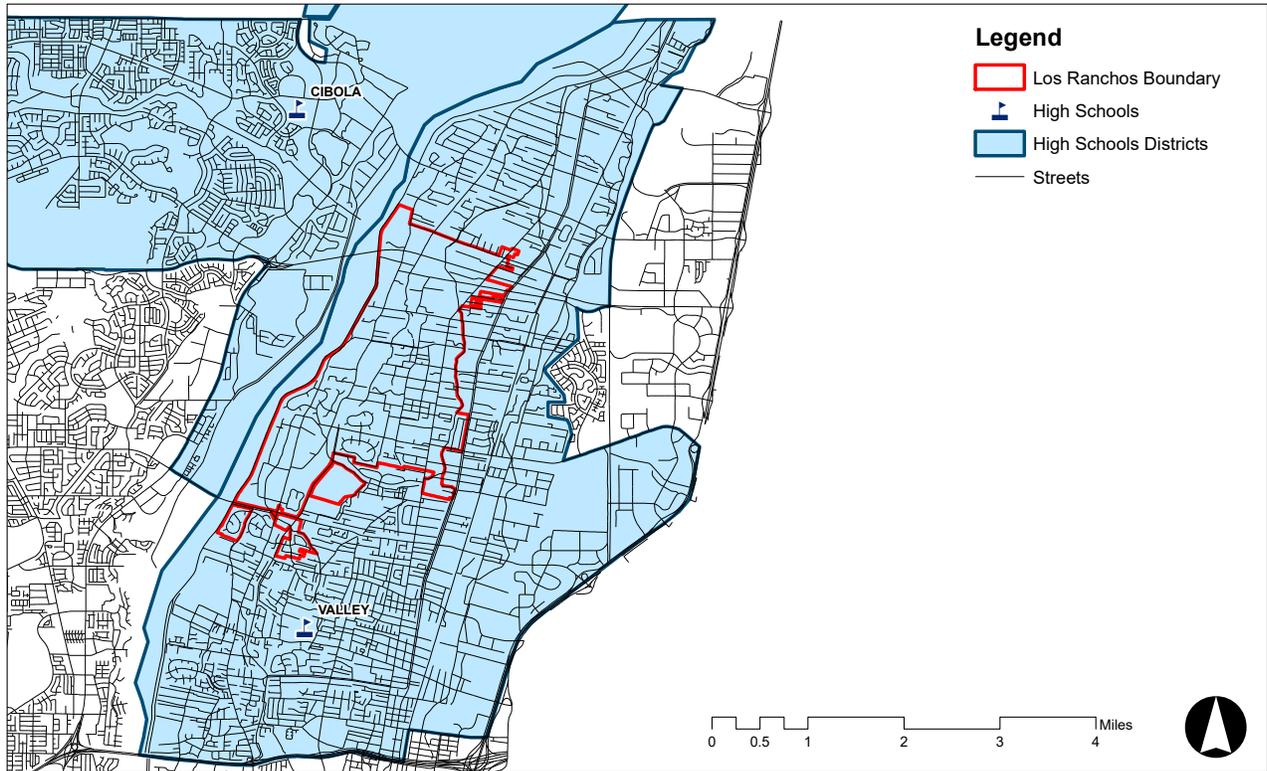
Elementary Schools



Middle Schools



High Schools



Los Ranchos Public School Grades ³⁰

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Los Ranchos ES	F	D	D	D	F	F	D
Alvarado ES	D	C	B	C	B	D	B
Taft MS	B	D	D	C	F	F	D
Taylor MS	C	D	C	D	F	D	C
Valley HS	C	B	C	D	D	D	D

Though it is not within Village boundaries, Alvarado ES is included as it is in close proximity to the Village and its school district boundary covers about half of the Village. When comparing Los Ranchos and Alvarado’s SY 2016-17 school grades, the key difference in the grading appears to be the improvement of higher-performing students. At Alvarado, the higher performing students were improving more than expected while at Los Ranchos that was not the case. Both schools were graded F in the categories of current standing, school improvement, and improvement of lowest-performing students, though Alvarado earned more points in all of those categories by about double (with the exception of school improvement, where points for both schools were similar). The difference between the two elementary schools is heightened in SY 2017-18, when both lowest-performing and highest-performing students at Alvarado ES showed improvement in test scores. This raised the overall schools’ improvement score and current standing score to raise the final school grade to B.

Based on these scores, any student at Los Ranchos ES or Taft MS has the ability to transfer to any higher performing APS school.³¹

³⁰ The 2012-2013 school grades are not available on the NM PEDS website.

³¹ Albuquerque Public Schools. Transfer Request Information. www.aps.edu/schools/transfers/transfers#sinoi-and-non-sinoi. Accessed July 2018.

Los Ranchos Elementary School

Enrollment:

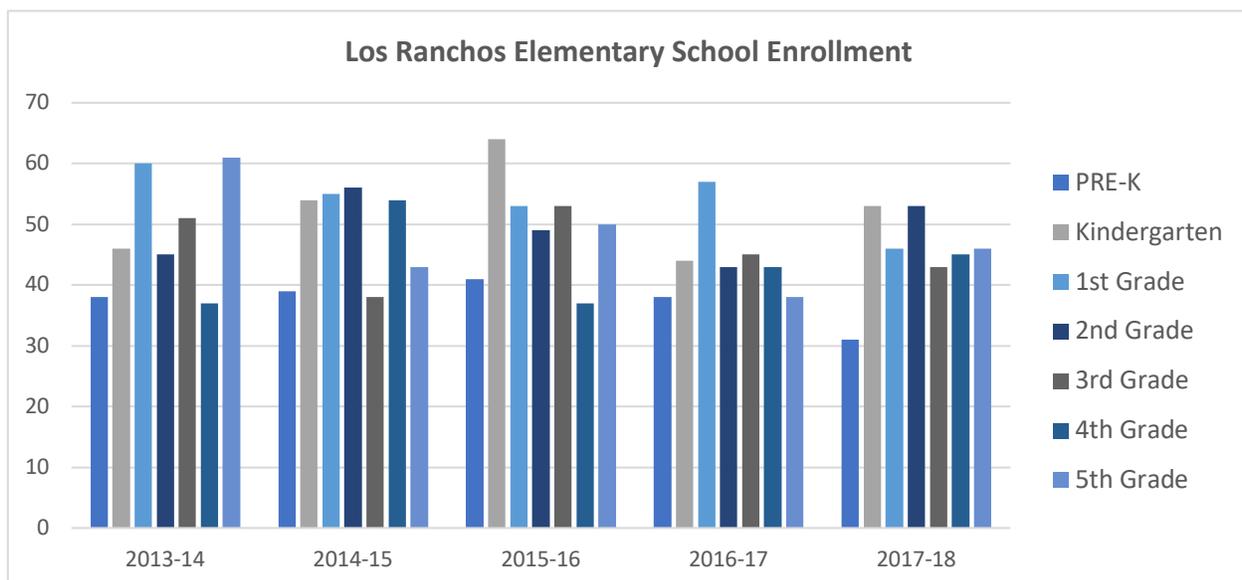
Compared to other schools: ³²

Los Ranchos ES has lower enrollment compared to other APS elementary schools and consistently had a lower enrollment compared to the average and median of APS elementary schools for the five-year period from SY 2010-11 to SY 2014-15.

- Enrollment: 362
- Average ES Enrollment: 505
- Median ES Enrollment: 458

By grade:

A breakdown of grades from the New Mexico Public Education Department (NM PED) through STARS³³ shows an overall decrease in student enrollment at Los Ranchos ES. It also shows which grades have more students enrolled, though grades with many students enrolled in one year do not seem to stay consistent as the years progress. For example, the large 1st grade class enrolled SY 2013-14 dropped as they became 2nd graders in SY 2014-15 and continued to decline until an increase in 5th grade in SY 2017-18.



School Grade: ³⁴

Los Ranchos ES has been in the D-F range since SY 2011-12 and was graded D in SY 2017-18.

Los Ranchos ES has been an improvement school when it had Focus Status and later, with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), it is a Targeted Improvement School for 2017-2021. Focus Status means that it was part of 10% of low performing schools with large gaps between lower and higher performing groups. This 10% was above the lowest performing 5% of schools.³⁵ With ESSA, Los Ranchos ES is working on ways to close the achievement gap and improve student progress.³⁶

³² Enrollment numbers from the APS website do not specify a school year. This data should be considered **only** in comparison to the average and median enrollment, as all of that data is from the same source.

Albuquerque Public Schools. Los Ranchos Elementary School. www.aps.edu/schools/schools/los-ranchos. Accessed July 2018.

³³ NMPED STARS. 2013-2018 Enrollment Data by district by location by grade. webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/information-technology/stars. Accessed July 2018.

³⁴ The 2012-2013 school grade is not available on the PEDS website. Prior to the 2011-2012 school year Adequate Yearly Progress was the grading indicator.

³⁵ U.S. Department of Education. SY 2012-13 New Mexico – Priority and Focus Schools. www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/consolidated/sy12-13part2/nmpf.pdf.

³⁶ Reedy, R. (2017). Improving Schools under the Every Student Succeeds Act. www.aps.edu/about-us/superintendent/superintendents-message/improving-schools-under-the-every-student-succeeds-act.

Alvarado Elementary School

Though it is not within Village boundaries, Alvarado ES is in close proximity to the Village and is included as its school district boundary covers about half of the Village.

Enrollment:

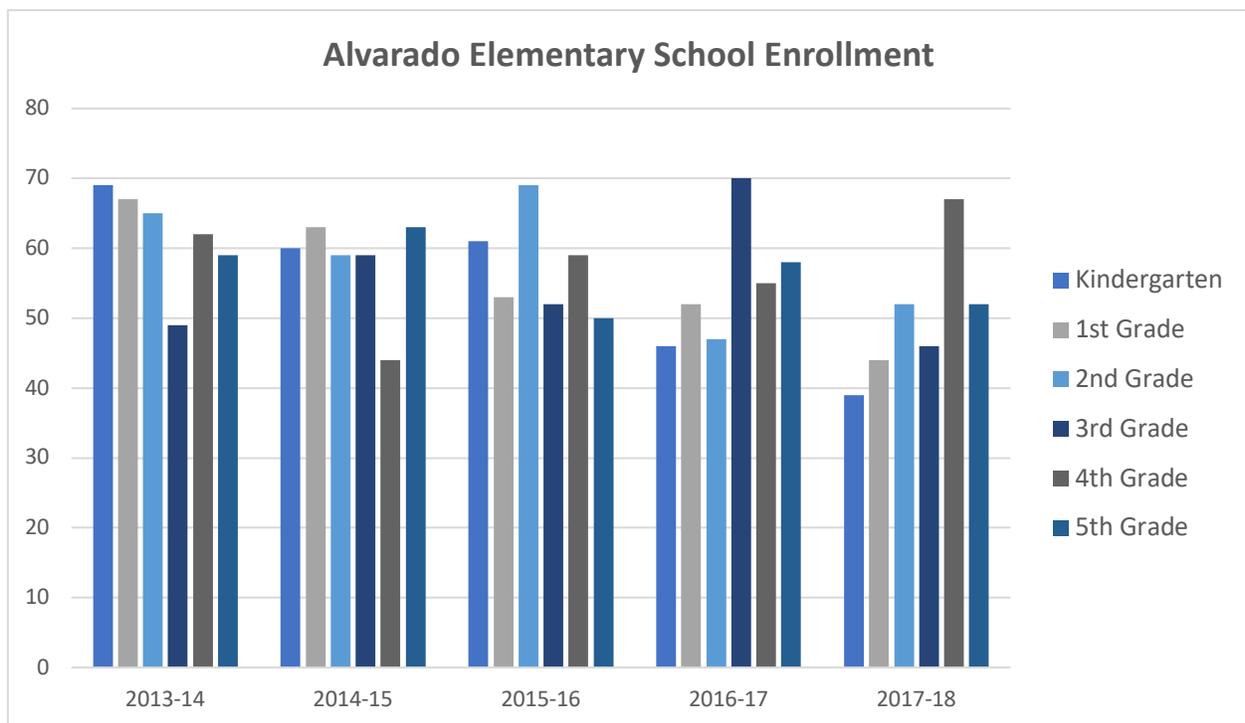
Compared to other schools:³⁷

Alvarado ES has lower enrollment compared to other APS elementary schools and consistently had a lower enrollment compared to the average and median of APS elementary schools for the five-year period from SY 2010-11 to SY 2014-15.

- Enrollment: 320
- Average ES Enrollment: 505
- Median ES Enrollment: 458

By grade:

A breakdown of grades from the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) through STARS³⁸ shows a steadily declining enrollment at Alvarado ES. Though other grades seem to be generally decreasing in size, the peak enrollment in each school year appears to be consistently the kindergarten class SY 2013-14, as seen in the continued peak the subsequent years. In comparison, the following kindergarten classes appear to decrease in size.



School Grade:³⁹

Alvarado ES has varied in school grade from B to D as of SY 2011-12. In SY 2017-18 it was graded B.

³⁷ Enrollment numbers from the APS website do not specify a school year. This data should be considered **only** in comparison to the average and median enrollment, as all of that data is from the same source.

Albuquerque Public Schools. Alvarado Elementary School. www.aps.edu/schools/schools/alvarado. Accessed July 2018.

³⁸NMPED STARS. 2013-2018 Enrollment Data by district by location by grade. webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/information-technology/stars. Accessed July 2018.

³⁹ The 2012-2013 school grade is not available on the PEDS website. Prior to the 2011-2012 school year Adequate Yearly Progress was the grading indicator.

Taft Middle School

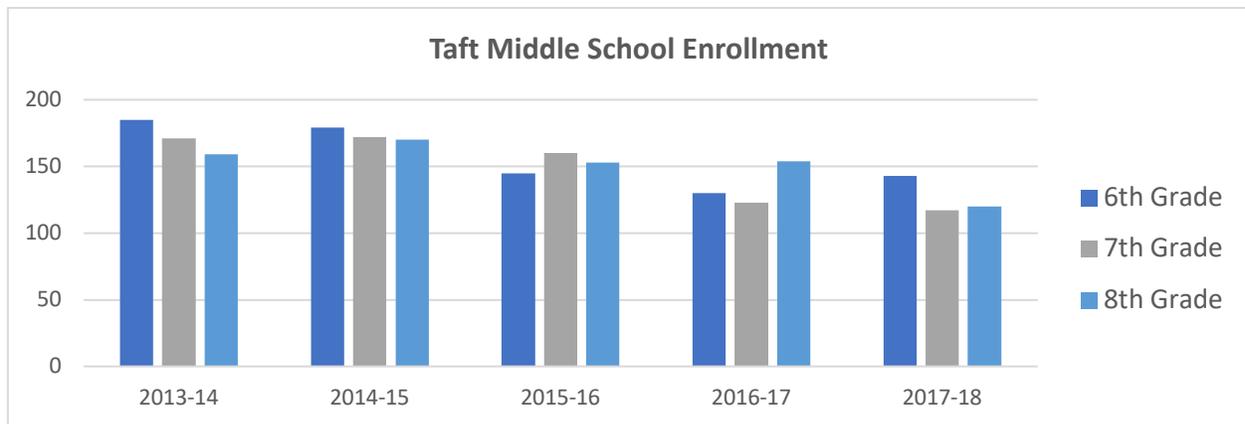
Enrollment:

Compared to other schools:⁴⁰

Taft MS has lower enrollment compared to other APS middle schools and consistently had lower enrollment compared to the average and median of APS middle schools for the five-year period from SY 2010-11 to SY 2014-15.

- Enrollment: 539
- Average MS Enrollment: 721
- Median MS Enrollment: 671

A breakdown of grades from the New Mexico Public Education Department (NM PED) through STARS⁴¹ shows an overall decrease in student enrollment at Taft MS. Changes in enrollment for each grade are harder to see as there are fewer grades compared to elementary school, but some differences can be seen. In each school year there appears to be a drop between those enrolled in 6th grade and those enrolled in 7th grade the next year. The number of students enrolled in 8th grade the following year appears to be similar to 7th or has dropped.



School Grade:⁴²

Taft MS has varied in school grade as of SY 2011-12. In SY 2017-18 it was graded D.

Taft MS is a Targeted Improvement School for 2017-2021 with ESSA, the Every Student Succeeds Act. This means that Taft MS is working on ways to close the achievement gap and improve student progress.⁴³

⁴⁰ Enrollment numbers from the APS website do not specify a school year. This data should be considered **only** in comparison to the average and median enrollment, as all of that data is from the same source.

Albuquerque Public Schools. Taft Middle School. www.aps.edu/schools/schools/taft. Accessed July 2018.

⁴¹ NMPED STARS. 2013-2018 Enrollment Data by district by location by grade. webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/information-technology/stars. Accessed July 2018.

⁴² The 2012-2013 school grade is not available on the PEDS website. Prior to the 2011-2012 school year Adequate Yearly Progress was the grading indicator.

⁴³ Reedy, R. (2017). Improving Schools under the Every Student Succeeds Act. www.aps.edu/about-us/superintendent/superintendents-message/improving-schools-under-the-every-student-succeeds-act.

Taylor Middle School

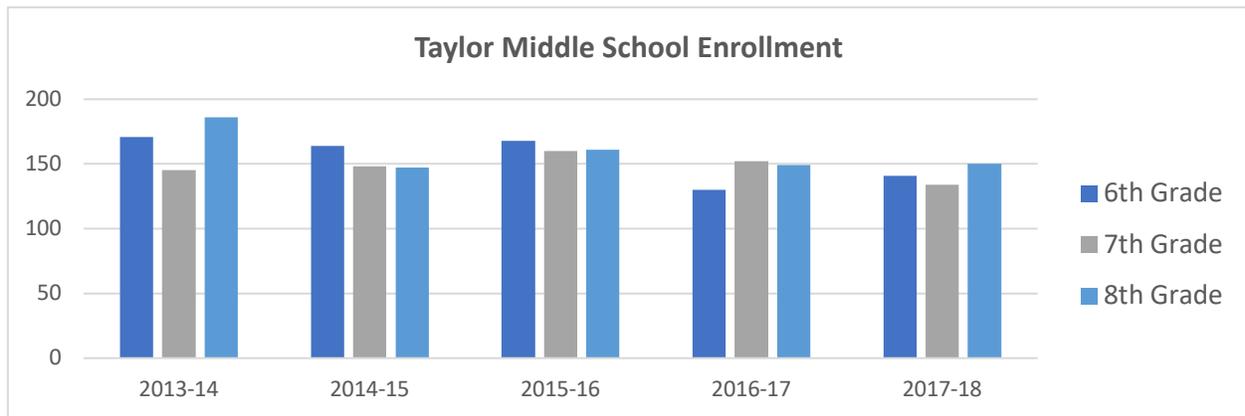
Enrollment

Compared to other schools: ⁴⁴

Taylor MS has a lower enrollment rate compared to other APS middle schools and consistently had lower enrollment compared to the average and median of APS middle schools for the five-year period from SY 2010-11 to SY 2014-15.

- Enrollment: 511
- Average MS Enrollment: 721
- Median MS Enrollment: 671

A breakdown of grades from the New Mexico Public Education Department (NM PED) through STARS⁴⁵ shows an overall decrease in student enrollment at Taft MS.



School Grade: ⁴⁶

Taylor MS varied in school grade as of SY 2011-12. In 2017-18 it was graded C.

⁴⁴ Enrollment numbers from the APS website do not specify a school year. This data should be considered **only** in comparison to the average and median enrollment, as all of that data is from the same source.

Albuquerque Public Schools. Taylor Middle School. www.aps.edu/schools/schools/taylor. Accessed July 2018.

⁴⁵ NMPED STARS. 2013-2018 Enrollment Data by district by location by grade. webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/information-technology/stars. Accessed July 2018.

⁴⁶ The 2012-2013 school grade is not available on the PEDS website. Prior to the 2011-2012 school year Adequate Yearly Progress was the grading indicator.

Valley High School

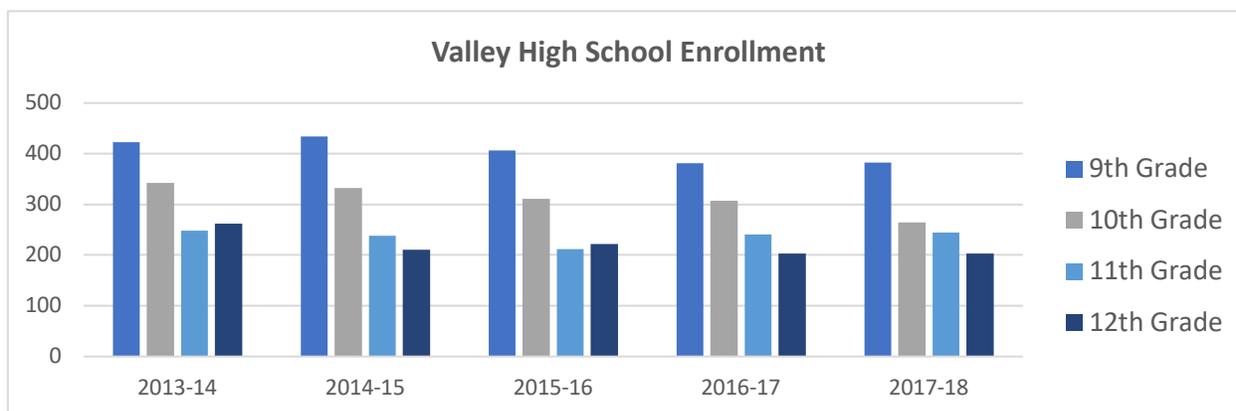
Enrollment

Compared to other schools: ⁴⁷

Valley HS has a lower enrollment rate compared to other APS high schools and consistently had a lower enrollment compared to the average and median of APS high schools for the five-year period from SY 2010-11 to SY 2014-15.

- Enrollment: 1371
- Average HS Enrollment: 1418
- Median HS Enrollment: 1632

A breakdown of grades from the New Mexico Public Education Department (NM PED) through STARS⁴⁸ shows an overall decrease in student enrollment at Valley HS and a consistent trend over the years of lower enrollment each grade from 9th to 12th grade. Most years the class is smaller, meaning fewer students enrolled in 11th and 12th grade than in 9th and 10th grade. There appears to be a decrease in enrollment in each grade each year, but it is occurring alongside lower enrollment rates in later grades after freshman year.



School Grade: ⁴⁹

Valley HS has been in the C-D school grade from B to D since SY 2011-12, when it was graded C. In SY 2017-18 it was graded D.

Valley HS is a Targeted Improvement School for 2017-2021 with ESSA, the Every Student Succeeds Act. This means that Valley HS is working on ways to close the achievement gap and improve student progress.⁵⁰

Graduation and College and Career Readiness: ⁵¹

High schools have additional benchmarks for their school grade: graduation and college and career readiness. Graduation factors in whether students are graduating high school on-time (in four years) and whether the graduation rate is improving. It is also broken down into the percent of students graduating in four, five, or six years. College and career readiness looks at students participating in those types of opportunities and their success in achieving targets in those programs. College and career readiness programs include participation in college entrance exams (Accuplacer,

⁴⁷ Enrollment numbers from the APS website do not specify a school year. This data should be considered **only** in comparison to the average and median enrollment, as all of that data is from the same source.

Albuquerque Public Schools. Valley High School. www.aps.edu/schools/schools/valley. Accessed July 2018.

⁴⁸ NMPED STARS. 2013-2018 Enrollment Data by district by location by grade. webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/information-technology/stars. Accessed July 2018.

⁴⁹ The 2012-2013 school grade is not available on the PEDS website. Prior to the 2011-2012 school year Adequate Yearly Progress was the grading indicator.

⁵⁰ Reedy, R. (2017). Improving Schools under the Every Student Succeeds Act. www.aps.edu/about-us/superintendent/superintendents-message/improving-schools-under-the-every-student-succeeds-act.

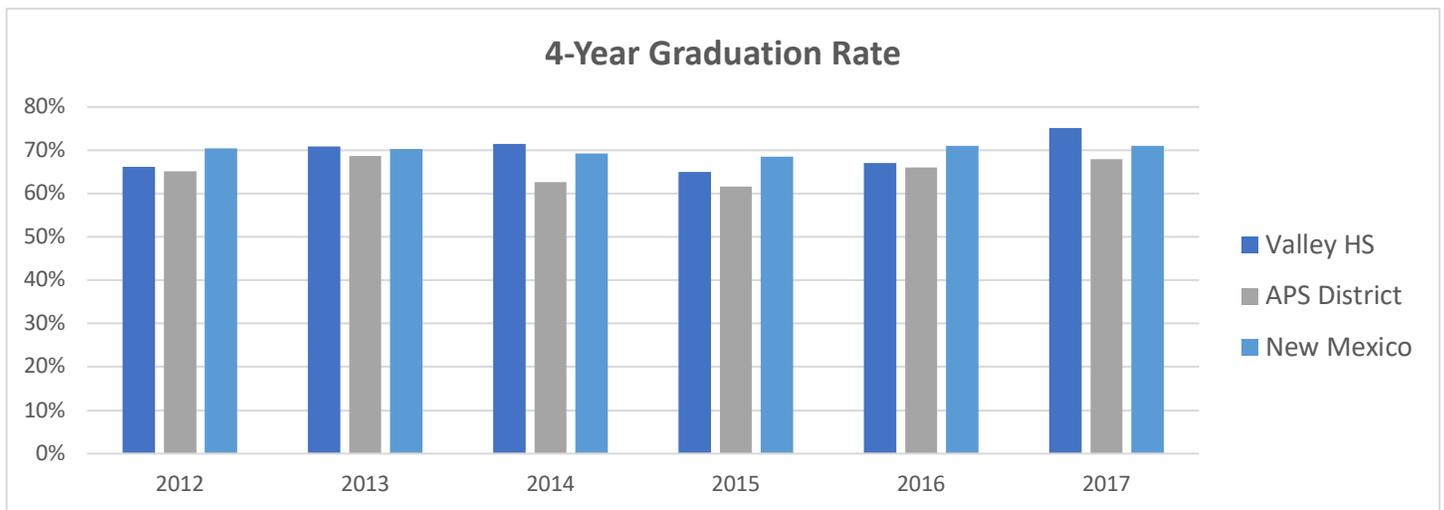
⁵¹ NMPED. (2017). School Grading Report Card 2017 Valley High.

aae.ped.state.nm.us/docs/1617/SchoolGrading/001_560_ALBUQUERQUE_PUBLIC_SCHOOLS_VALLEY_HIGH_SchoolGrading_2017.pdf.

ACT, ACT Aspire, Compass, PLAN, SAT, SAT Subject Tests), passing college-level courses (Advanced Placement, Dual Credit, IB), or eligibility for industry-recognized certifications (Career Technical Education).

Since 2014, Valley HS has been continuously graded D for graduation until recently in 2017-18, when it was graded C, and has been in the A-B range for college and career readiness. In SY 2017-18 Valley HS was graded C for graduation and A for college and career readiness.

The 4-Year Graduation Rate for Valley HS varies between 65-75% from 2012-2017. Each of those years it is above the APS district graduation total. Some years Valley HS has a higher graduation rate than the state and some years it has a lower graduation rate than the state.⁵² There is separate data available for those who graduate in five or six years as well as the outcomes of non-graduates in those years on the New Mexico Public Education Department website.



Valley High School Programs

Valley HS is home to Valley Academy⁵³, a Smaller Learning Community within the larger Valley HS that middle school students apply for. This community is meant for high-achieving students and gives “first-priority” to these students for academic events at Valley HS.

Valley HS also has a magnet school, Engineering the Future⁵⁴, which is meant for students who are interested in engineering and computer science. The overall academic focus is on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). Students within Valley HS school district are given priority entry to this magnet school, though students outside the school district can apply to transfer in.

Valley’s Engineering the Future is one part of a K-12 STEM magnet pathway for students in the North Valley that specifically targets Hispanic students. Students who attend Mission Avenue’s, Garfield’s, and Valley’s Engineering the Future STEM magnet schools can receive a continuous STEM focused primary and secondary education.

⁵² NMPED. Graduation Data: Data and Statistics. webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/accountability/graduation. Accessed July 2018.

⁵³ Valley High School. Valley Academy. vhs-aps-nm.schoolloop.com/pf4/cms2/view_page?d=x&group_id=1522740913508&vdid=i1y0g1u7gb14l. Accessed August 2018.

⁵⁴ Valley High School. Engineering the Future. valley.aps.edu/etf. Accessed August 2018.