Get Ready for Next Year

New to APS?

• Register online at admissions.aurorak12.org

• Students who have been withdrawn for more than 60 days must also register

Returning to APS?

• Check in online at aurorak12.org/checkin (Starting July 1)

Apply!

• Complete the application for free and reduced meals at payschoolscentral.com

Need Help?

• Contact Centralized Admissions at 303-326-2200 or admissionsoffice@aurorak12.org

'23-'24
Below is a list of many of the district wide events and individual school events for Aurora Public Schools. Dates and times are subject to change. Please contact your child’s school for specific event dates and times.

**Districtwide Events**

**Board of Education Meetings at 6 p.m., APS Professional Learning and Conference Center, 15771 E. 1st Ave.**
- March 7, 2023
- March 21, 2023
- April 4, 2023
- April 18, 2023
- May 2, 2023
- May 16, 2023
- June 6, 2023
- June 20, 2023

**District Accountability Advisory Committee Meetings from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.**
- March 20, 2023
- April 17, 2023
- May 15, 2023

**Aurora Public Schools Aquatics Program**

Learn to Swim Program
Learn to swim program for ages six months to adults. Swimming lessons are taught at Aurora Central and Rangeview high schools. The classes are four weeks long, two nights a week (Mon. & Wed. or Tue. & Thu.) Morning, evening and Saturday classes will be available. Water aerobics and special needs classes are also offered.

Aurora Tsunami Swim Team (ATST)
ATST is a year–round competitive team for swimmers ages 7–18. Team works on endurance, progression, strength and technique. Part of United States Swimming (USS)

APS Aquatics Program also offers:
- Splash! Synchronized Swimming
- Stingrays Middle School Swim & Dive Team
- Water Polo

Job positions are available for those interested in instruction and coaching.

For more information, please call 303–365–7809 or visit athletics.aurorak12.org/aquatics.

**Aurora Public Schools offers GED Testing Services year round:**
- GED Testing Center & Office
  - Pickens Technical College
  - Building E
  - 500 Airport Blvd.
  - Aurora, CO 80011
  - Email: apsged@aurorak12.org
  - Office: 303–326–2112
  - Website: aurorak12.org/ged

**COST**
- $37.50 per GED test subject
- $17.50 retake cost per GED test subject
- $6.00 GED Ready Official Practice Test and Diagnostic per subject
- FREE unlimited unofficial GED practice tests available at MyGED.com

**Facilities Rental in Aurora Public Schools**

APS has over 50 buildings, 200 fields and a conference center available for organizations to rent. You can even rent a swimming pool!
- Cafeteria
- Auditorium
- Gymnasium
- Classroom
- Athletic Field
- Meeting Room
- Swimming Pool

To rent an APS facility, contact the Aurora Public Schools Facilities Rental Office at 303–326–1957 or visit aurorak12.org/facilities.
Elementary Schools

Altura
1650 Altura Blvd. 303–340–3500
3/10 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
3/13 - 3/17 – Spring Break
3/20 – DDI Days for Staff, No Classes
4/3 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes for Preschool, Elementary & K-8 sites (all other students attend school)
4/24 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes
5/25 – Last Day of School
5/26 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
5/29 – Memorial Day, No Classes

Arkansas
17301 E. Arkansas Ave. 303–755–0323
3/10 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
3/13 - 3/17 – Spring Break
3/20 – DDI Days for Staff, No Classes
4/3 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes for Preschool, Elementary & K-8 sites (all other students attend school)
4/24 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes
5/25 – Last Day of School
5/26 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
5/29 – Memorial Day, No Classes

Crawford
1600 Florence St. 303–340–3290
3/8 – March Parent Coffee 8:30-9:30am
3/10 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
3/13 - 3/17 – Spring Break
3/21 – Spring Pictures Class Pictures/ Individual
3/22 – No School DDI Day for Staff
4/3 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes for Preschool, Elementary & K-8 sites (all other students attend school)
4/24 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes
4/27 – Culture Night 4:00- 6:00pm
5/10 – May Parent Coffee 8:30-9:30am
5/12 – Field Day
5/24 – Last Day of School for Preschool
5/25 – Last Day of School
5/26 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
5/29 – Memorial Day, No Classes

Dawson
17401 E. Dartmouth Ave. 303–693–7561
3/10 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
3/13 - 3/17 – Spring Break
3/20 – DDI Days for Staff, No Classes
3/23 – Spring Pictures
3/27 – PTSO Meeting 5:00-6:00 PM
3/30 – Spring Give Back Event
4/3 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes for Preschool, Elementary & K-8 sites (all other students attend school)
4/17 - 4/21 – Spring Book Fair
4/19 – Family STEAM Night
4/24 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes
4/25 – PTSO Meeting 5:00-6:00 PM
5/1 – Vocabulary Parade
5/16 – PTSO Meeting 5:00-6:00 PM
5/27 – Last Day of School
5/26 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
5/29 – Memorial Day, No Classes

Clara Brown Entrepreneurial Academy
472 S Wheeling Street 303–326–1018
3/9 – Spring Showcase
3/10 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
3/13 - 3/17 – Spring Break
3/29 – Parent Coffee
4/3 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes for Preschool, Elementary & K-8 sites (all other students attend school)
4/24 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes
4/26 – Parent Coffee
5/25 – Last Day of School
5/26 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
5/29 – Memorial Day, No Classes

Charles Burrell Visual & Performing Arts Campus
875 Peoria St. 303–340–0770
3/9 – Spring Showcase
3/10 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
3/13 - 3/17 – Spring Break
3/20 – DDI Days for Staff, No Classes
3/21 – Nature Program Visits (Create slime, playdough, and snow)
3/22 - 3/23 – Traveling Farm (Petting zoo)
4/3 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes for Preschool, Elementary & K-8 sites (all other students attend school)
4/24 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes
4/26 – Parent Coffee
5/25 – Last Day of School
5/26 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
5/29 – Memorial Day, No Classes

Dalton
17401 E. Dartmouth Ave. 303–693–7561
3/10 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
3/13 - 3/17 – Spring Break
3/20 – DDI Days for Staff, No Classes
3/23 – Spring Pictures
3/28 – PTSO Meeting 5:00-6:00 PM
3/30 – Spring Give Back Event
4/3 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes for Preschool, Elementary & K-8 sites (all other students attend school)
4/17 - 4/21 – Spring Book Fair
4/19 – Family STEAM Night
4/24 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes
4/25 – PTSO Meeting 5:00-6:00 PM
5/11 – Vocabulary Parade
5/16 – PTSO Meeting 5:00-6:00 PM
5/27 – Last Day of School
5/26 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
5/29 – Memorial Day, No Classes

ADS ACTIVITY GUIDE • SPRING 2023
START SMART.
START STRONG.

TAKE FREE COLLEGE CLASSES at the Community College of Aurora as a concurrent enrollment student.

After you graduate from high school, JOIN THE ASCENT PROGRAM to take additional free college classes to complete your degree!

Learn more at ccaurora.edu/CE

Connect With Our Community!
CCAURORA.EDU/CONNECT
AURORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS A PROUD PROVIDER OF THE COLORADO UNIVERSAL PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

1. APPLY
   Apply online through the Colorado Universal Preschool Program

2. ACCEPT
   Accept your school match online through the Colorado Universal Preschool Program

3. REGISTER
   Register your child online through Aurora Public Schools

GET THE PROCESS STARTED TODAY!

ece.aurorak12.org

Please consider processing time between each step. Wait times may vary. Thank you for your patience.

- Child must be 3 or 4 years old on or before October 1, 2023
- 3-year-olds may be eligible for 10 hours of free preschool programming based on qualifying factors
- 4-year-olds are eligible for at least 15 hours of free preschool programming
A Great Place For:

- Free Tuition For Qualifying APS students
- Industry Grade Technology
- Career Focused Curriculum
- Internships & Apprenticeships
- 29 Different Programs
- Hands On Training
Aurora community members have voiced strong support for more choice when it comes to their children’s education. Thanks to Blueprint APS, students will have that choice, with the opportunity to attend a specialized magnet school. These magnet schools have a specific academic focus that engages students to learn in new ways, develop unique skill sets and have more real world experiences. Here is an in-depth look at the Blueprint APS Regional Specializations.

1. One Health: Examines the interconnection between people, animals, plants and their shared environment to achieve optimal health outcomes by studying multiple disciplines and promoting collaboration across sectors (e.g. human healthcare, animal healthcare, environmental science, policymakers, etc.)

2. Business Management and Hospitality: Focus on the hospitality industry and businesses such as restaurants, lodging, travel and events

3. Visual and Performing Arts: Art and art-related disciplines, from dance to theater, music to visual arts

4. Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM): Students will use these disciplines to engage their studies through inquiry, critical thinking and investigation

5. Technology, Engineering, and Design: Gain 21st Century communication and design skills studying languages, technologies, sciences and engineering

6. Entrepreneurship and Invention: Focus is on learning through investigation and response to engaging and complex questions or challenges

7. Project-based Learning: An engaging curriculum to gain understanding and skills through investigation and experiences with hands-on, case-based studies
Aurora Public Schools is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities, technology and environments that support students in powering their full potential.

Over the past year, Aurora Public Schools completed several major projects thanks to the 2016 Bond Program. This included opening two new magnet schools this school year, Charles Burrell Visual & Performing Arts Campus and Clara Brown Entrepreneurial Academy.

Earlier this school year, Aurora Public Schools also broke ground on two new buildings. One of the new P-8 schools is located in The Aurora Highlands development (between Denali Blvd. and Fultondale St.) that will support the growing needs of families along the E-470 corridor. The other P-8 school is being constructed on the old Lyn Knoll Elementary School site. Both schools are expected to open in August 2023.

We also recently completed construction in September at East Middle School. The project included a new two-story addition for East that houses two new classrooms, a library, cafeteria, space for elective programs and new administrative offices.

In addition to making improvements at every school in the district, Aurora Public Schools is happy to report that due to sound business and accounting practices, the district has saved Aurora taxpayers approximately $17 million dollars. Those funds are currently being used to support the implementation of Blueprint APS, the district’s long-term facilities and educational plan.

The 2016 Bond Program that Aurora voters passed in November 2016 has provided approximately $280 million for building improvements and nearly $20 million for technology enhancements. The bond program is in its final year and will officially wrap up major projects in 2023.

You can learn more about the completed and remaining bond projects and how they are powering student potential by visiting bond.aurorak12.org.
SCHOOL LISTINGS, from April 2023 Issue

Jamaica Child Development Center
800 Jamaica St.
303-364-8216
3/10 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
3/13 – 3/17 – Spring Break
3/20 – DDI Days for Staff, No Classes
4/3 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes for Preschool, Elementary & K-8 sites
(all other students attend school)
4/20 – Young Athletes Field Day
4/24 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes
5/25 – End of Year Celebration
5/25 – Last Day of School
5/26 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
5/29 – Memorial Day, No Classes

Lansing Community School
551 Lansing St.
303-364-8297
3/10 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
3/13 – 3/17 – Spring Break
3/20 – DDI Days for Staff, No Classes
4/3 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes for Preschool, Elementary & K-8 sites
(all other students attend school)
4/24 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes
5/25 – Last Day of School
5/26 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
5/29 – Memorial Day, No Classes

Laredo
1350 Laredo St.
303-364-0314
3/10 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
3/13 – 3/17 – Spring Break
3/20 – DDI Days for Staff, No Classes
4/3 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes for Preschool, Elementary & K-8 sites
(all other students attend school)
4/24 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes
5/25 – Last Day of School
5/26 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
5/29 – Memorial Day, No Classes

Laredo Child Development Center
1420 Laredo St.
303-363-0484
3/10 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
3/13 – 3/17 – Spring Break
3/20 – DDI Days for Staff, No Classes
4/3 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes for Preschool, Elementary & K-8 sites
(all other students attend school)
4/24 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes
5/25 – Last Day of School
5/26 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
5/29 – Memorial Day, No Classes

Montview
2055 Malone St.
303-364-8549
3/10 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
3/13 – 3/17 – Spring Break
3/20 – DDI Days for Staff, No Classes
4/3 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes for Preschool, Elementary & K-8 sites
(all other students attend school)
4/24 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes
5/25 – Last Day of School
5/26 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
5/29 – Memorial Day, No Classes

Montview
2055 Malone St.
303-364-8549
3/10 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
3/13 – 3/17 – Spring Break
3/20 – DDI Days for Staff, No Classes
4/3 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes for Preschool, Elementary & K-8 sites
(all other students attend school)
4/24 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes
5/25 – Last Day of School
5/26 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
5/29 – Memorial Day, No Classes

Montview
2055 Malone St.
303-364-8549
5/16 – Field Day
5/24 – 5th Grade Continuation
5/26 – Last Day of School
5/26 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
5/29 – Memorial Day, No Classes

Sable
2601 Sable Blvd.
303-340-3140
3/10 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
3/13 – 3/17 – Spring Break
3/20 – DDI Days for Staff, No Classes
4/3 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes for Preschool, Elementary & K-8 sites
(all other students attend school)
4/24 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes
5/25 – Last Day of School
5/26 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
5/29 – Memorial Day, No Classes

Sixth Avenue
560 Vaughn St.
303-366-6019
3/10 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
3/13 – 3/17 – Spring Break
3/20 – DDI Days for Staff, No Classes
4/3 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes for Preschool, Elementary & K-8 sites
(all other students attend school)
4/24 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes
5/25 – Last Day of School
5/26 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
5/29 – Memorial Day, No Classes

Tollgate
701 S. Kalispell Way
303-696-0944
3/10 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
3/13 – 3/17 – Spring Break
3/20 – DDI Days for Staff, No Classes
4/3 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes for Preschool, Elementary & K-8 sites
(all other students attend school)
4/24 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes
5/25 – Last Day of School
5/26 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
5/29 – Memorial Day, No Classes

Side Creek
19191 E. Mynn Dr.
303-755-1785
3/2 – Spring Conferences
3/10 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
3/13 – 3/17 – Spring Break
3/20 – DDI Days for Staff, No Classes
4/3 – Kindergarten Round-Up
(5:00 pm – 6:00 pm)
4/3 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes for Preschool, Elementary & K-8 sites
(all other students attend school)
4/24 – Parent Conference Exchange Day, No Classes
5/5 – 5/15 – Field Day
5/25 – Last Day of School
5/26 – Teacher Workday, No Classes
5/29 – Memorial Day, No Classes

Elementary & K-8 sites
(all other students attend school)

APS ACTIVITY GUIDE • SPRING 2023

Encourage Inquiry

* Field Trips
* Classroom Programs
* Scout Saturdays
* Homeschool Days
* Sensory Friendly Mornings
Learning Choices in Aurora Public Schools

At Aurora Public Schools, we believe all students must have equitable access to learning opportunities that support them in powering their potential. When students experience a quality education that aligns with their needs and interests, it fuels their curiosity and allows them to unleash their talents and gifts into the world. We are proud to offer the following learning options to our students and their families:

- **Boundary Schools** are neighborhood schools with a designated attendance area.
- **Magnet Schools** have a special academic focus or program and serve students from many different boundaries.
- **Alternative Schools** provide students with a non-traditional learning environment that meet their emotional and behavioral needs.
- **Public Charter Schools** are independent, tuition-free public schools with unique learning options. They operate under a contract or “charter” between the charter school board and the Aurora Public Schools Board of Education.
- **Early Childhood Education Programs** allow for developmental growth in children prior to their entry into elementary school.
- **Online Learning Programs** give students and families the flexibility to learn in a virtual setting.
- **College Credit Programs** allow students to earn college credit by taking college-level courses while enrolled in high school.

To learn more about these educational opportunities, please visit our website at aurorak12.org.
Denver’s Hidden Gem!

Emerald Greens is a scenic and walkable 9-hole, par-3 golf course with a putting green, chipping green and practice area.

Uniquely situated, the beautifully maintained course winds around and over Windsor Gardens’ sparkling lake, bringing water into play on many of the holes. Players of all abilities are welcome to enjoy the fairways lined with lush, mature trees, challenging water hazards, bunkers and rolling greens.

Book your tee time using the QR code

Emerald Greens Golf Club
597 S Clinton St. Denver, CO 80247
(303) 366-3133
www.emeraldgreensdenver.com
Join Our Team of Barrier Breakers!

Aurora Public Schools is one of the largest and most diverse school districts in Colorado, with more than 38,000 students and 5,500 staff members. Our students come from 130+ countries and speak more than 160 languages.

At Aurora Public Schools, there’s a place for everyone.

**Teach**
- Discover what it takes to teach in APS. Explore different pathways to become a teacher through student teaching or alternative licensure programs. Already licensed? Select your best fit from a variety of open positions.

**Lead**
- Are you ready to stand with us as we lead APS into the future? Find out how to become a Principal, Assistant Principal, or learn about other leadership opportunities and become part of this dynamic, forward-thinking team!

**Inspire**
- The students are the purpose and reason for working for APS. Looking for opportunities to inspire students? Consider support positions including clerks, bus drivers, campus monitors, mental health service providers and more.

**Hiring Now**
- Full/Part-Time Bus Drivers - Starting $21.43, Benefits Available
- Full/Part-Time Custodians - Starting $15.95, Benefits Available

To learn about benefits, view open positions and apply, visit hr.aurorak12.org.

#BarrierBreakers
Charting a New Path for the Future Through P-TECH

Aurora Public Schools is excited to offer new hands-on learning opportunities for students that will prepare them to succeed in the high-skilled jobs of the future.

Through Blueprint APS, we are creating new education and career paths for students through Pathways in Technology Early College High Schools, better known as P-TECH. P-TECH is an innovative partnership between a school district, a community college and one or more local STEM industry employers.

Students begin their P-TECH program in 9th grade and attend for six years. By the time students graduate, they earn a high school diploma, an industry-recognized associate degree and have real-world experience through mentoring, internships and pre-apprenticeships.

In May 2022, the APS Board of Education approved the opening of a new One Health Innovation Center at North Middle School, which will include space for P-TECH. This P-TECH opportunity is expected to open in Fall 2024.

A second P-TECH opportunity will be provided as ConstrucTECH. This program will be a partnership with the Community College of Aurora and will allow students to earn their Associate Degree in Construction Management by the end of their sixth year. During Fall 2023, this program will be offered at Gateway High School and Vista PEAK Preparatory while a more permanent location is constructed.
# Graduation Ceremonies for the Class of 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Smith High School</td>
<td>Wednesday, May 17</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>DU Newman Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hinkley High School</td>
<td>Monday, May 22</td>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
<td>DU Ritchie Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rangeview High School</td>
<td>Monday, May 22</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>DU Ritchie Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickens Technical College</td>
<td>Monday, May 22</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>DU Ritchie Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gateway High School</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 23</td>
<td>8 a.m.</td>
<td>DU Ritchie Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aurora Central High School</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 23</td>
<td>12 p.m.</td>
<td>DU Ritchie Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vista PEAK Preparatory Academy</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 23</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
<td>DU Ritchie Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aurora West College Preparatory Academy</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 23</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>DU Ritchie Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossroads Center (Exit Ceremony)</td>
<td>Thursday, May 25</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>APS PLCC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Location Information

- University of Denver Ritchie Center - 2240 Buchtel Blvd. S., Denver, CO 80210
- University of Denver Newman Center - 2344 E. Iliff Ave., Denver, CO 80210
- APS Professional Learning and Conference Center - 15771 E. 1st Ave., Aurora, CO 80011

For additional information, please visit [aurorak12.org/graduation](http://aurorak12.org/graduation).
ONE COLLEGE
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

SUMMER AND FALL REGISTRATION OPENS ON MARCH 13TH.

Begin the enrollment process today and be a step closer to earning a credential, transferring to a 4-year institution, or entering directly into the workforce.

Learn more at ccaurora.edu/CE

Connect With Our Community!
CCAURORA.EDU/CONNECT
Nearly 30 million Americans who got extra government help with grocery bills during the pandemic will soon see that aid shrink. An analysis shows for the average recipient, the change will mean about $90 less per month in food stamps. In 32 states and other jurisdictions, the COVID-19 emergency allotments will end with February payments. Other states have already stopped giving out extra foods stamps. The extra help started at the beginning of the pandemic. Government officials and advocates are using texts, flyers and social media posts to make sure recipients know the program is ending.

Nearly 30 million Americans who got extra government help with grocery bills during the pandemic will soon see that aid shrink — and there’s a big push to make sure they’re not surprised.

Officials in 32 states and other jurisdictions have been using texts, voicemails, snail mail, flyers and social media posts — all in multiple languages — to let recipients know that their extra food stamps end after February’s payments.

“One of the scenarios you don’t want to see is the first time they’re aware of it is in the checkout line at the grocery store,” said Ellen Vollinger, an official with the Food Research & Action Center, a non-profit organization.

For the average recipient, the change will mean about $90 less per month, though for many, it could be much more, an analysis shows. Benefits will return to usual levels, which are based largely on a household’s income, size and certain expenses, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which oversees the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP.

A public notice in Michigan urged the 1.3 million recipients in that state to “seek needed resources” to make up for the cuts.

“We want to make sure our clients are prepared for this change, as we realize inflation is affecting all of us,” said Lewis Roubal with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Jacqueline Benitez, 21, who works as a preschool teacher in Bellflower, California, expects a significant cut, perhaps half, of the $250 in food benefits she has received since 2020 through CalFresh, the state’s SNAP program.

“It’s such a lifesaver,” said Benitez, who was previously homeless, but now lives in a subsidized one-bedroom apartment. “Food is such a huge expense. It’s a little nerve-wracking to think about not having that.”

Benitez said she’s already thinking twice about paying $5 for fresh fruit.

“What happens if it goes bad?” she said.

The emergency program was enacted by Congress at the start of the pandemic in March 2020 and expanded a year later. Originally, the extra benefits were intended to continue as long as the COVID-19 public health emergency was in force. It’s now set to expire in May.

But 18 states have already rolled back payments for more than 10 million people and Congress decided to end the program early, trading the extra benefits for a new permanent program that provides extra money to low-income families to replace school meals during the summer.

Experts credit the emergency funds with making sure most Americans had enough food to eat, despite the pandemic. About 10% of U.S. households had trouble obtaining sufficient food in 2020 and 2021, roughly unchanged from pre-COVID levels.

SNAP benefits can rise and fall with inflation and other factors. Maximum benefits went up by 12% in October to reflect an annual cost-of-living adjustment boosted by higher prices for foods and other goods. But payments went down for those who also receive Social Security because of the 8.7% cost-of-living increase in that program on Jan 1.

In most such cases, purchasing power should hold steady, said Stacy Dean, USDA deputy undersecretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services.

“The emergency allotments were always intended to be temporary and they did tremendous good during a very difficult time in our country,” Dean said. “The process of unwinding from them will certainly be difficult for families who are counting on those benefits.”

The rollback is coming during a time when inflation, though improving, remains elevated and food prices are still high.

Shelley Boyd, 45, of Beaver, Pennsylvania, expects to make more trips to her local food pantry starting next month. She and her fiancé and teenage son started getting food stamps last year after...
Learning Opportunities Abound for Students of All Ages

Tesoro’s onsite educational programs explore Colorado’s history during the first half of the 19th century. Handling historical objects, examining primary sources, touring Bent’s Fort’s first authentic adobe replica, or participating in inquiry-based learning activities, participants will be engaged in critical thinking and will be able to make connections between past, present, and future. Tesoro’s education programs align with Colorado Academic Standards.

Tesoro has 3 Onsite Programs or Traveling Trunk Shows that visit your site:
• Bent’s Fort: A Crossroad
• Colorado’s Early Spanish Settlers
• The American Indian Tribes of Colorado

Reserve a program TODAY! Please contact us for pricing and availability.

Visit Tesoro’s website for FREE classroom resources including oral history videos!

www.TesoroCulturalCenter.org  ~  (303) 839-1671  ~  Info@TesoroCulturalCenter.org

Join us for Tesoro’s educational signature events: Indian Market & Powwow, June 3 & 4 or the 1840 Rendezvous & Spanish Colonial Art Market, September 16 & 17

both adults lost their jobs and unemployment benefits ran out. The family receives about $630 per month. They expect to lose about $95, if not more.

“That’s where our food pantry comes in,” Boyd said. “We visit them and do what you gotta do.”

At the same time, food pantries nationwide remain under “immense strain,” said Vince Hall, an official with Feeding America, a network of more than 200 food banks. Demand for help remains far above pre-pandemic levels, even as food banks face continued supply chain disruptions, higher food and transportation costs and lower food donations.

Andrew Cheyne, managing director of public policy for GRACE, a California-based anti-poverty organization, urged recipients to reach out now to county offices to update their eligibility and ensure they’re getting the maximum benefit possible. Changes in costs for shelter, child care, elder care and other expenses can affect food stamp benefits.

Recipients can also check other benefits, such as the federal Women, Infants and Children program and seek out refundable tax credits.

Cheyne and other advocates said the emergency benefits should have been extended indefinitely instead of cut prematurely.

“It’s just an unimaginable hunger cliff that folks were going to go over at some point,” he said.

#NoPayWallHere
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SUMMER MEAL SERVICE ‘23

MAY 30 - AUGUST 2

TIMES & LOCATIONS WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOON

SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFO
At Aurora Public Schools, we see potential everywhere. It’s in every building, every classroom and every student who walks through the door. It’s every C that jumps to an A, every after-hours runner that makes varsity and every college credit earned senior year. It’s the diploma that says definitively, defiantly and undeniably: I did it.

Set the bar high. We’ll do whatever it takes to help you clear it.

Power your potential.

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