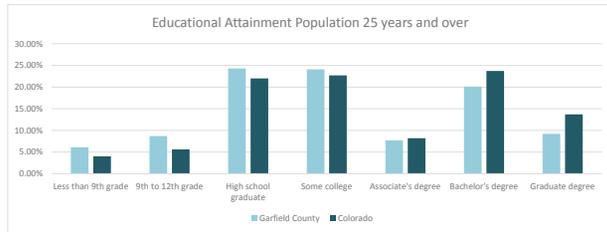


EDUCATION

number of Boettcher and Daniels Scholars, both prestigious scholarship foundations recognizing unique scholastic and civic aptitude.

Though slightly behind the state average, for a rural area Garfield County has a high educational attainment in population over 25 years of age. Over 61.1 percent of the county's over 25 years of age population has some post-secondary schooling with 37 percent having an advanced degree. In total, the number of pupils attending public schools in Garfield County grew by 20 percent between 2000 and 2010, faster than state population growth (11 percent) but slower than overall county population growth. Garfield Re-2 and Garfield 16 school districts, which cover the areas including Parachute, Rifle, New Castle, and Silt, added the largest number of pupils and grew most rapidly during this period. Since 2009, enrollment has declined, with a slight recovery in 2012.

Figure 17: Educational Attainment: Population 25+ (2014)
Source: <http://factfinder.census.gov>



K-12 EDUCATION

Three public school districts serve school-age children in Garfield County. These districts are funded by local and state taxes. The Roaring Fork School District RE-1 includes public schools in Glenwood Springs, Carbondale and Basalt. The district educates close to 5,000 students and includes four elementary schools, three middle schools, and three traditional high schools, as well as three smaller schools: the alternative Bridges High School, the K-8 Carbondale Community School, and the K-8 Two Rivers Community School in Glenwood Springs. The RE-1 District oversaw a series of school construction projects and building renovations after district voters approved an \$86 million bond issue in 2004. The voters again approved a \$122 million bond issue in 2015 for significant capital improvements to 13 schools, facilities and \$10 million for teacher and staff housing.

Garfield County School District Re-2 serves families in New Castle, Silt and Rifle. The district oversees six elementary schools, including the Graham Mesa Elementary in Rifle, which opened for the 2009-10 school year, plus two middle schools and two high schools. Several new and expanded school facilities

were built over the past several years, thanks to a \$74.9 million bond issue approved by Re-2 voters in 2006. In addition, district voters approved a \$1.6 million mill levy override intended for increased pay to help retain teachers and staff.

Garfield County School District No. 16 was founded in the early 1900s to govern all of the small rural schools in and around Parachute. Grand Valley High School was named a Gold School of Opportunity in 2015, making it one of five schools nationally to receive the designation for schools that actively and equitably promote the success of all students. In 2006, District 16 voters approved a \$35 million bond issue for new school facilities.

Founded in 1953, the Colorado Rocky Mountain School in Carbondale began as a summer session-only college prep school, today the school (grades 9-12) offers scholastic programming, with an emphasis on community service work and wilderness experiences, as well as on campus housing. Students work on the campus ranch, which produces an annual hay crop and gardens. Opening enrollment is limited to 165, 10 percent of which are international students.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Colorado Mountain College (CMC) is one of Garfield County's greatest educational assets. CMC has been ranked number 17 of 800 community colleges for graduation and transfer rates and named the third most affordable public four-year degree program in the country (U.S. Department of Education). Originally organized as a two-year special community college district, today CMC serves a six-county region and has begun offering four-year degrees. Community sites are located in Glenwood Springs, Carbondale, and Rifle. Spring Valley Campus, one of CMC's three residential campuses, is just seven miles south of Glenwood Springs.

(Interdisciplinary Studies) (BAIS). While the college continues to build its four-year programs, CMC's strengths are its over 50 associate's degree programs, including programs such as nursing, photography and veterinary technology, as well as occupational certificates in emergency medical technology, culinary arts, and real estate. Community enrichment classes run the gamut, from kayaking to Chinese language, ballroom dancing to book writing. Science and liberal arts associate degrees are often used as stepping-stones for transfer to other four-year colleges and universities.

In addition to CMC, Garfield County's Department of Human Services has been instrumental in partnering with the University of Denver to bring a master's degree program in social work to Garfield County, in order to fill a shortage of mental health therapists in the area. This program began offering graduate-level courses and master's degrees in 2014.

In 2011, CMC started offering four-year degrees, and today offers five bachelor degree programs, including Sustainable Studies (BASS), Business Administration (BSBA), Nursing (BSN), Applied Science in Leadership and Management (BAS), and Elementary Education

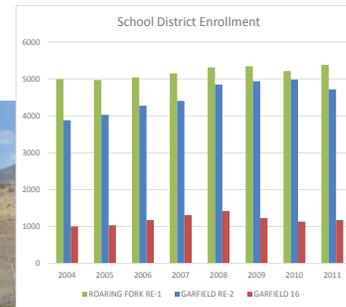


Figure 18: Public School District Enrollment
Source: Colorado Department of Education, 2004-2012 PK-12 Membership by District





LIBRARIES

The Garfield County Public Library District marked its 75th anniversary in 2013 with the continued tradition of providing high quality customer service, passionate promotion of books, technology and literacy, and broad community engagement through partnerships, initiatives, and events. The district is comprised of six new state-of-the-art library buildings, has 37 full and 26 part-time staff members, and is funded through a quarter cent sales tax and 1 mill of property tax.

Consistent with a strategic plan that was established in 2007, the district completed new libraries in Parachute and Rifle in 2010, celebrated grand openings of new libraries in New Castle and Silt in 2012, and in 2013 completed the last two new libraries in the Carbondale and Glenwood Springs branches. In 2013, the district lent more than 675,000 items and hosted almost 1,400 events.

Garfield County's libraries serve as key community gathering places. Their public computers and wireless access offer a comfortable environment in which to work, study, stay up with current events, or keep in touch with friends. Their meeting rooms are a popular destination for civic groups, non-profits, and organizations of all kinds. All of the county libraries

offer study rooms that double as office space, tutoring classrooms, or just a quiet place to contemplate or meet friends.

Library programming is designed to meet the needs of users of all ages. For young children, the libraries offered more than 600 story times, which saw over 10,000 attendees in 2013. The early literacy skills that children learn in storytime help them translate words to images, develop their brains, and nurture the cognitive, emotional and social skills they need to develop the habits of life-long learners. School-age children and teens have many opportunities at the libraries to participate and advance their skills in a safe environment. Adult programs and classes include technology training, skills development, and computer literacy, and in 2013 also included discussion opportunities for books and films, a Civil War series, and the America's Music series. Additionally, the libraries offer a summer reading program, which consists of activities for children, teens, and adults and set a new record in 2013 for the number of participants.

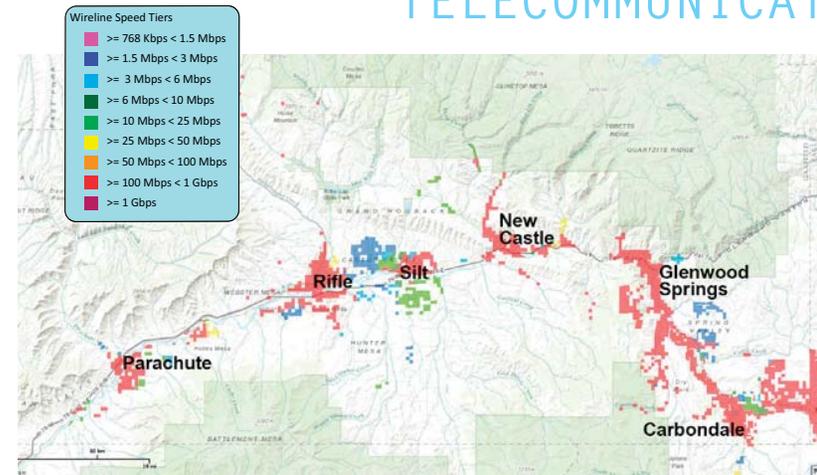
The fiber optic telecommunications infrastructure and demand for broadband services in Garfield County are concentrated along the I-70 and Highway 82 corridors. Broadband services are primarily located in community anchor institutions located in the municipalities.

Private internet providers exist throughout Garfield County, including cable, fiber, and wireless service providers. The most reliable internet connection for business use in the City of Glenwood Springs is the Community Broadband Network. This fiber optic service is a highly dependable, affordable, business-class internet solution. Enterprise services available include speeds up to one gigabyte per second, private network connections and priority bandwidth. The Town of Carbondale and the City of Rifle offer fiber optic connections throughout their communities. Community Anchor Institutions, as well as local providers of broadband, can be found by using the State's website <http://maps.co.gov/coloradobroadband/>.

Garfield County and its member municipalities are participants in a joint, mini-region Broadband Study with Mesa County, to assess the existing broadband infrastructure and to work with private and public stakeholders, to provide abundant, reliable, redundant, and affordable broadband services to community anchor institutions, citizens, businesses and visitors. This plan is expected to address the design and implementation of middle-mile broadband throughout Garfield and Mesa counties. The study is expected to be completed in 2015 and to launch public/private partnerships, such as Open Access Network approaches, and help to leverage resources of both private providers and local governments to improve broadband access.

Figure 19: Garfield County area Broadband Mapping
Source: Colorado Office of Information Technology

TELECOMMUNICATIONS



GARFIELD COUNTY

COLORADO