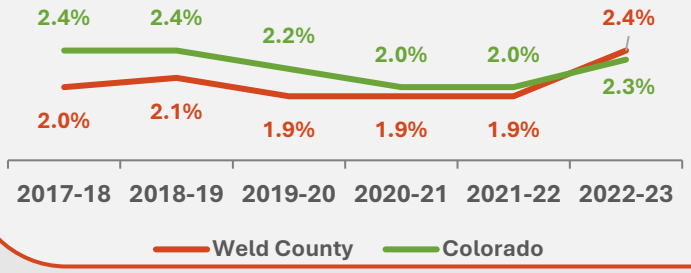
The Weld Trust's Big Bets for Health

The Weld Trust's Big Bets represent our most ambitious, measurable goals within each of our six Key Funding Initiatives. These eleven commitments focus our resources and partnerships on achieving community-wide impact over the next decade.

Housing Stability

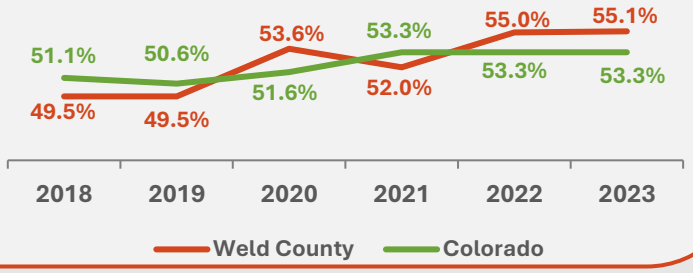
Big Bet: By 2030, the three-year average percentage of PK-12 students in Weld County identified as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act will be at least 0.5 percentage points lower than the state's three-year average.

Context: The McKinney-Vento Act requires schools to identify and support students experiencing homelessness, providing a consistent measure across Colorado.



Big Bet: By 2030, the three-year average percentage of renters in Weld County spending 30% or more of their income on housing will drop 1% below the state three-year average.

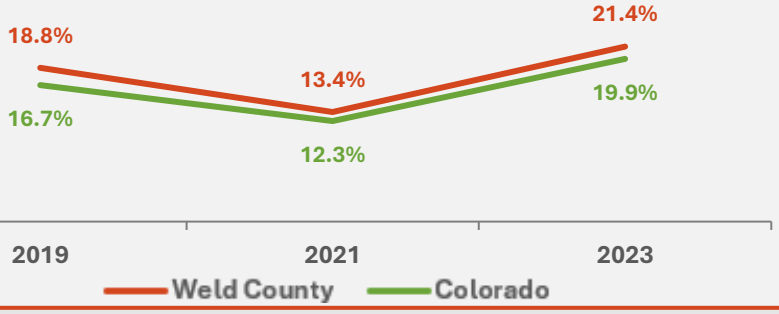
Context: The Gross Rent as a Percentage of Income (GRAPI) measures the share of income households spend on rent and utilities, with 30% marking cost burden. By tracking this metric, we aim to lower Weld County's rate below the state average.



Food Security

Big Bet: By 2031, our goal is for Weld County residents earning up to 300% of the federal poverty level to be no more likely than the average Coloradan residents earning up to 300% of the FPL to report skipping meals due to lack of money.

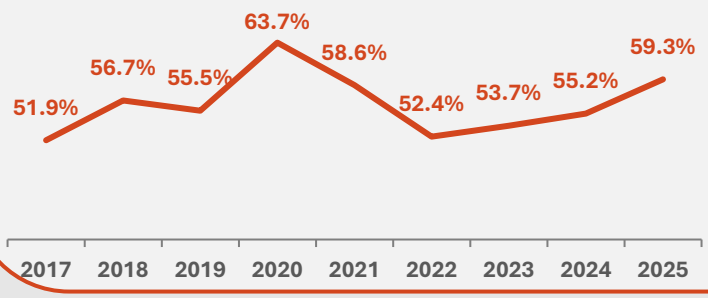
Context: By 2031, we aim to reduce the percentage of Weld County residents living at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level who report eating less due to lack of money, so that it is on par with the state average, as measured by the Colorado Health Access Survey question: "In the last 12 months, did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money for food?"



Physical and Behavioral Health

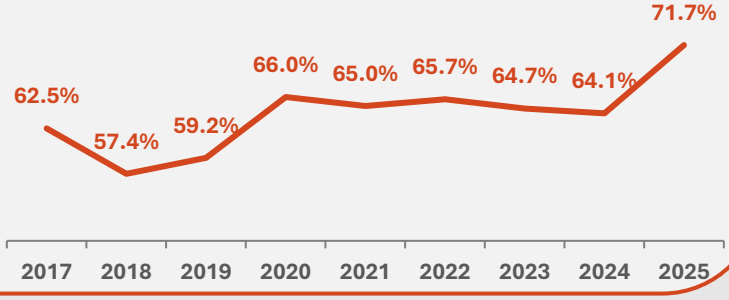
Big Bet: By 2035, Weld County will rank in the top 30% of all Colorado counties (at or above the 70th percentile) on our standardized Physical Health Index.

Physical Health Index includes: Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL) Rate, % Poor or Fair Health, Physical Inactivity, and Poor Physical Health Days (equally weighted)



Big Bet: By 2035, Weld County will rank in the top 20% of all Colorado counties (at or above the 80th percentile) on our standardized Behavioral Health Index.

Behavioral Health Index & weights include: 35% Frequent Mental Distress, 25% Poor Mental Health Days, 25% Drug Overdose Mortality Rate, 15% Excessive Drinking

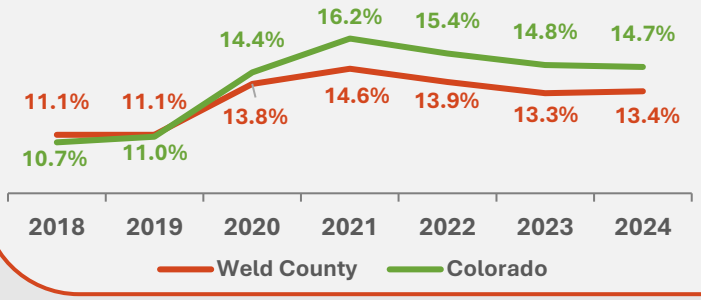


The Weld Trust's Big Bets for Education

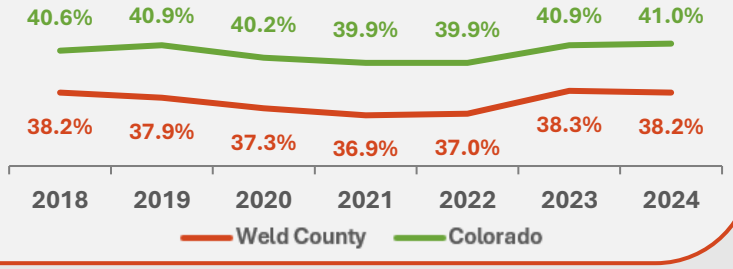
The Weld Trust's Big Bets represent our most ambitious, measurable goals within each of our six Key Funding Initiatives. These eleven commitments focus our resources and partnerships on achieving community-wide impact over the next decade.

Childhood Literacy

Big Bet: By 2028, Weld County's three-year average kindergarten SRD rate will be at least 2.0 percentage points lower than the Colorado three-year average SRD rate. **Context:** The Significant Reading Deficiency (SRD) assesses whether kindergarteners meet age-appropriate developmental milestones in areas like literacy, math, and social-emotional skills.

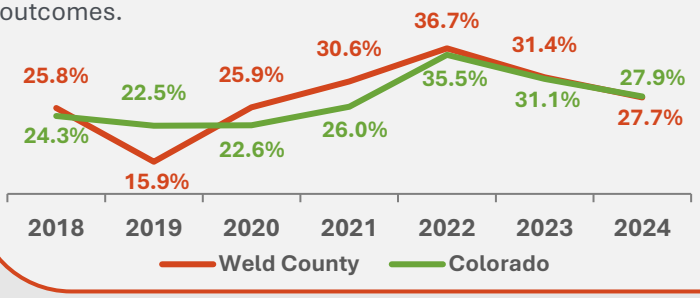


Big Bet: By 2030, the three-year average percentage of Weld County third-grade students meeting or exceeding expectations on the ELA CMAS test will align with the state average. **Context:** The Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) test evaluates third-grade reading and writing proficiency, a key predictor of long-term academic success. Aligning Weld County's results with the state average will demonstrate meaningful progress in early literacy.

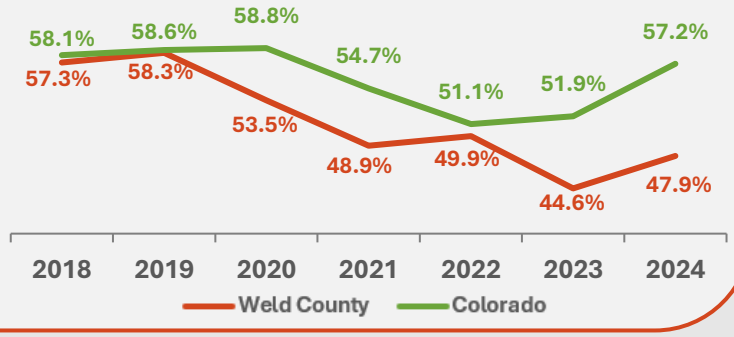


Access to Resources

Big Bet: By 2030, Weld County will reduce its chronic absenteeism rate to at least 5% below the statewide rate. **Context:** Chronic absenteeism, defined as missing 10% or more of the school year, is strongly linked to lower academic achievement and higher dropout rates. Reducing Weld County's rate well below the state average will support stronger student success and long-term outcomes.

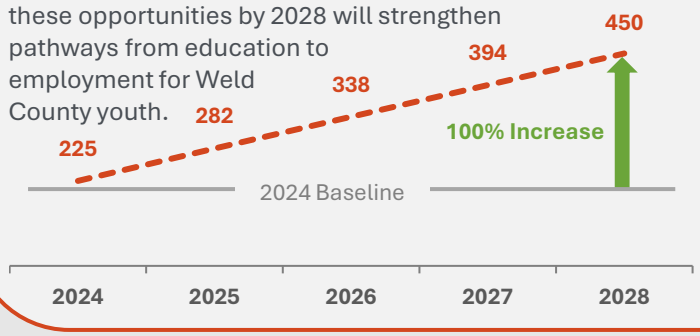
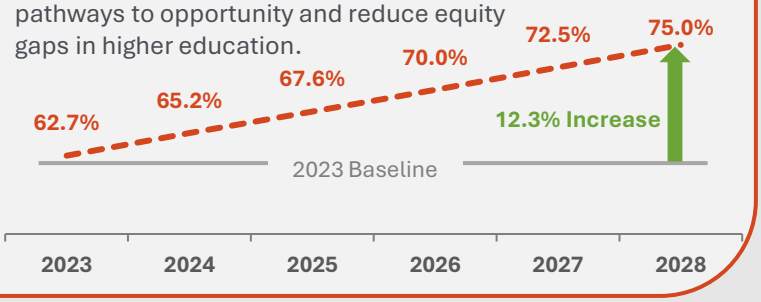


Big Bet: By 2030, Weld County will increase its postsecondary matriculation rate to meet or exceed the Colorado state rate, including all 4-year, 2-year, and CTE program enrollments. **Context:** Postsecondary matriculation measures the share of high school graduates who continue their education at 4-year, 2-year, or career and technical programs.



Workforce Development

Big Bet: The number of annual Work-Based Learning placements reported by Weld County school districts will increase by 100% (from 225 to 450) by 2028. **Context:** Work-Based Learning (WBL) placements connect students with real-world career experiences through internships, apprenticeships, and job shadows. Doubling these opportunities by 2028 will strengthen pathways from education to employment for Weld County youth.



Big Bet: By 2028, the three-year average percentage of first-generation Bright Futures scholarship recipients pursuing a bachelor's degree or higher will have a 6-year completion rate at or higher than 75%. **Context:** College completion is a critical milestone for long-term career and income stability, yet first-generation students often face lower graduation rates. Raising completion among Bright Futures scholars will strengthen pathways to opportunity and reduce equity gaps in higher education.