



# The I-70 Scout

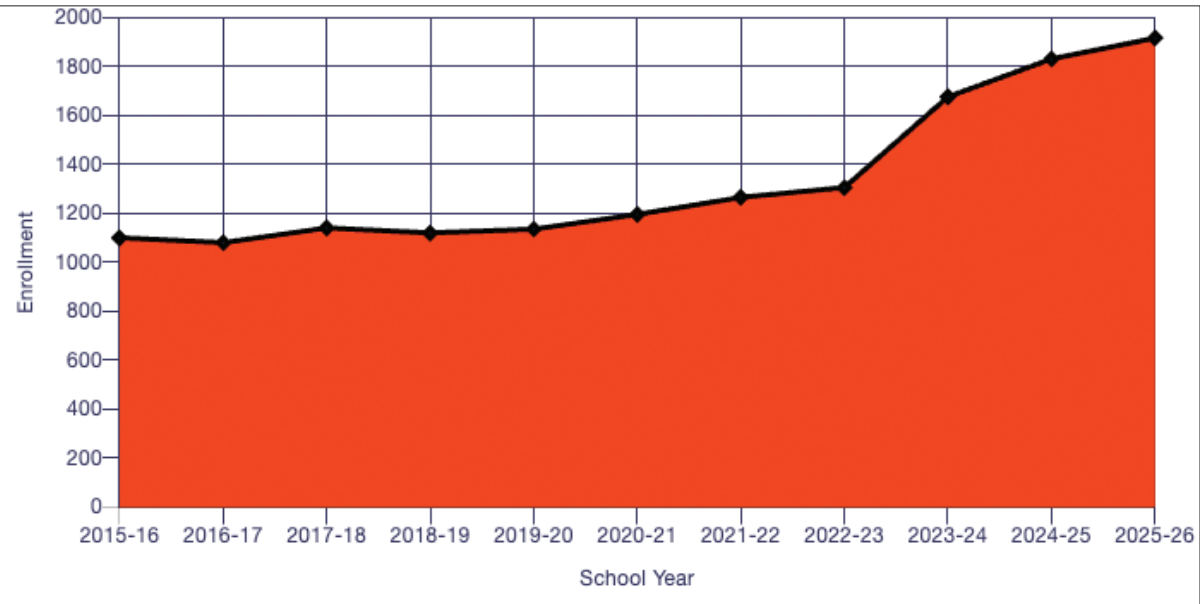
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Searching for news in Watkins, Bennett, Strasburg, Byers, Deer Trail and Agate

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

## Bennett School bond ? on November ballot

Residents asked to fund \$125M in campus improvements/expansion in face of enrollment boom



After significant jumps in student counts, depicted above, over the past several years, Bennett School District seeking ways to improve facilities on campus and to expand. On the upcoming November ballot, the district will ask to approve a construction bond question. For information, visit [bennettbond.org](http://bennettbond.org).

**by Steven Vetter**  
Managing Editor

**BENNETT** — After deciding not to go to voters the past two years, the Bennett School District will return to its residents this November to ask them to fund campus improvements and expansion to accommodate rapidly growing enrollment.

During their Aug. 19 business meeting, Bennett School Board directors voted 5-0 in favor of a resolution “referring to eligible electors a ballot measure for the issuance and payment of debt.”

“Enrollment was steady before the pandemic, then began rising quickly,” a district statement says. “In just a few years, enrollment has grown by more than 40%, with the sharpest acceleration between the 2022-23 and 2025-26 school years alone.

“And it’s not slowing down. Within the next decade, enrollment numbers are expected to increase by an additional 400 students, stretching many buildings even further beyond capacity.”

According to the school district’s [bennettbond.org](http://bennettbond.org) webpage, the proposed bond is for \$125 million, which would include a new high school and particularly focus on additional areas for career and technical education; safety improvements and maintenance upgrades; and improvements for extracurricular and athletic facilities, particularly a new artificial turf field at the outdoor stadium.

The bond website also said that, if approved, homeowners in the district would pay \$6.25

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## Land acquisition rift widening between Bennett Fire, town

**by Steven Vetter**  
Managing Editor

**STRASBURG** — As time goes by, Bennett-Watkins Fire Rescue officials appear more uncertain about a proposed land transfer with town government.

During the Aug. 13 Bennett-Watkins Fire Protection District board meeting at the Strasburg Firehouse, Assistant Fire Chief Caleb Connor indicated that the amount of money that town staff is looking to get out of a town-owned parcel adjacent to fire district property near 38th Avenue and Highway 79 continues to increase.

“Last update was \$250,000. That’s 73% of the fair market value price,” he said. “That’s a lot of value for a property transfer. Probably beyond our means at the moment. We’re working up a request for them to reconsider.”

The approximately two acres of town property is valued at approximately \$341,000, or \$4 per square foot on 80,222 commercial square-feet.

When Connor formalized the land request during the April 14 town trustees meeting, it was framed as either a

**SEE BENNETT FPD PAGE 8**



A 41-year-old Fort Morgan man miraculously evaded fatal injuries when the semi tractor-trailer rig he was driving crashed through a guardrail and came to rest on a bridge embankment on eastbound I-70 near mile marker 294 early afternoon Aug. 17. Above, the investigation of the wreckage continues after the driver was transported to a Denver hospital with serious injuries. **SEE PAGE 4.**



A small aircraft that took off from Colorado Air & Space Port mid-morning Aug. 19 reportedly had oil pressure issues forcing it to land in an open field a couple miles west of Bradbury-Krebs Road south of Highway 36 between Byers and Strasburg. A little after 10:30 a.m., Arapahoe County Sheriff’s deputies found the plane with the pilot and other occupant milling around outside uninjured. No plane damage was reported.