



Town of New Castle
450 W. Main Street
PO Box 90
New Castle, CO 81647

Administration Department
Phone: (970) 984-2311
Fax: (970) 984-2716
www.newcastlecolorado.org

Memorandum

To: Mayor & Council
From: David Reynolds
Re: Agenda Item: Presentation - Confluence Early Childhood Development Service District
Date: 06/02/2026

Purpose:

The purpose of this agenda item is to introduce a presentation from representatives of the Confluence Early Childhood Development Service District regarding current programs, funding efforts, and regional initiatives supporting early childhood education and childcare services throughout the Roaring Fork Valley region.

The Confluence Early Childhood Development Service District is the first and currently only special district of its kind in Colorado. Established through voter approval, the district serves communities across Garfield and Pitkin counties, as well as portions of Eagle County, extending from Aspen to Parachute.

The district was formed in response to growing regional concerns regarding childcare availability, affordability, workforce retention, and access to early childhood developmental services. Prior to the adoption of Colorado legislation authorizing these types of districts through House Bills 19-1052 and 22-1070, local governments primarily relied upon individual municipal or county funding mechanisms to support childcare initiatives. The special district model allows multiple jurisdictions to work collaboratively on a regional basis to address shared childcare and early childhood education challenges.

Funding for the district is generated through a 0.25% sales and use tax applied to non-essential goods. Essential items including groceries, diapers, and medicine are exempt from the tax. Revenues generated by the district are utilized to:

- Provide tuition assistance for local families;
- Support grant programs for childcare providers to expand enrollment capacity;
- Assist with recruitment and retention efforts for early childhood educators; and
- Provide mental health and developmental support services for children and families.

The district is governed by an elected Board of Directors. Representatives from the Confluence District will be present to provide Council with an overview of district operations and answer any questions Council may have future regarding programs and services.