



## Board Approves 2019-20 Budget, Wrestles with Compensation Challenges and Increased Costs

**GOLDEN, Colo. (June 7, 2019)** – The Board of Education for Jeffco Public Schools unanimously passed the \$1.2 billion 2019-20 budget at their board meeting last night. Employee compensation is the largest budget increase for 2019-20 and Board members discussed the aspect extensively.

### Compensation Highlights

During the budget conversations, the Board reviewed average historical employee compensation increases:

Total 2017/2018 to 2018/2019 = 10.8%

Total 2016/2017 to 2018/2019 = 14.8%

Salary Increases:

Entering 2018/2019 = Total 5.9% average (2.9% Step average, 3% COLA)

Entering 2017/2018 = Total 4.9% average (2.9% Step average, 2% COLA, lane change)

Entering 2016/2017 = Total 4% minimum (Regrid, minimum 4% total - base and 1x)

### **The 2019/2020 budgeted salary increase = Total 7.07% average (2.67% 5A Mill Levy Override, 2.9% Step average, 1.5% COLA)**

The Board ratified an agreement with the Jeffco Education Support Professionals Association (JESPA) that includes a 2.52% salary schedule adjustment, changes to the salary schedule, step increases for eligible employees, plus a cost of living increase of 1.5%.

The district and the Jefferson County Education Association (JCEA) did not conclude negotiations at their last meeting on May 29 and will continue the process in early August. The district and JCEA issued a joint statement indicating that they were optimistic that they would achieve a negotiated agreement when they reconvene.

Once the final agreement is presented and approved, the Board will determine if a budget amendment is necessary.

The 2019-20 budgeted pay increases are the highest the district has been able to provide since the “budget stabilization” decrease in Amendment 23 funding was put in place by the state eleven years ago, primarily thanks to the support of voters passing the mill levy override last November.



## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Revenue Overview

State funding is short of Amendment 23 levels by \$52 million, and student enrollment continues to decrease due to fewer school-aged children in the county. State funding is budgeted to be \$24.3, including charter school funding -- \$1.29 million less than last year. However, the state did provide funding for full-day kindergarten and some other special areas, a \$14.6 million increase. The district expects \$34.3 million more in revenue compared to last school year, in addition to the \$30 million approved by Jefferson County voters last November that was received this spring in property taxes.

### Expense Overview

The largest expense increase is for staff compensation. Other new expenses for 2019-20 include free full-day kindergarten, student mental health and security supports, one-to-one devices for 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders, and other improvements/additions for students specified in the 2018 ballot question. Projected expenses are higher than the revenue increase and the Board opted to potentially use some reserve funds to cover some of the increases if FY 2018/2019 ongoing underspend is not identified. Expenses are projected at \$52.8 million over last year.

"Our schools statewide continue to be underfunded compared to the rest of the country," said Board President Ron Mitchell. "However, I am thankful to our local voters for their support. Our state legislators also did the best they could to support K-12 education with current resources. We will continue to work to find ways to better support our students and staff. Though we want better for our education system, compared to the recent past this is an improvement. I am thankful we are able to make investments this year that will ultimately provide better opportunities for our students."

### About Jeffco Public Schools

Jeffco Public Schools has been providing educational excellence for more than 65 years. The district serves over 85,000 students at 155 schools. Jeffco Public Schools is dedicated to changing the classroom experience through Readiness for Learning, Conditions for Learning, and Learning as outlined in the [Jeffco Generations strategic vision](#). Find [Jeffco Public Schools](#) on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).

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