

## **Press Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** 

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## New Chief Student Success Officer Selected

**GOLDEN, Colo.** (May 1, 2019) – Jeffco Public Schools is pleased to announce Susan Leach, Psy.D., was selected as the new Chief Student Success Officer beginning July 1. Dr. Leach is filling the position opened by the retirement of Kevin Carroll. Carroll has worked in education for 30 years, and served as Chief Student Success Officer for the past three years.

Dr. Leach is currently a Director of Special Education for Jeffco Public Schools, a position she has held since August 2018.

Prior to Jeffco, she was with Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) in Jacksonville, FL for 12 years, the twentieth largest school system in the U.S. Her most recent position at DCPS was as Director of Exceptional Education and Student Services where she led a team of over 300 professionals who ensured that the approximately 20,000 students with disabilities in the district received the supports and services necessary to find success in the public school system. Dr. Leach is a licensed and certified school psychologist and previously served as the Supervisor of Psychological and Social Work Services, as well as a regional Special Education Supervisor and school psychologist. Her research interests are related to issues impacting public school students, particularly those marginalized by race and socioeconomic status.

"I relocated to Colorado to be closer to my daughter," said Dr. Leach. "She has lived here since 2016. As a first-generation college graduate, I am passionate about public education and its potential to transform lives. I am so excited about this new leadership opportunity in Jeffco!"

The Chief Student Success Officer is responsible for developing, directing, and rolling out systems and programs to serve students and families who require educational, physical, and emotional support beyond standard programming. Departments and programs under this position include special education, gifted and talented, health services, homebound instruction, student services, healthy schools, and student engagement departments.

"We were excited to have a high-caliber internal candidate for this district leadership position," said Superintendent Dr. Jason Glass. "Mr. Carroll has a lot of organizational knowledge and moved these departments forward in the last few years, so it's helpful that Dr. Leach is already familiar with Jeffco. She also brings perspectives from a different district, other regions, and the research community. This position oversees areas critical to the well-being of our students, and making sure special needs are addressed ensures our kids have the support they need to learn."

## **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 <u>Jeffco Generations strategic vision</u>. Find <u>Jeffco Public Schools</u> on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, and <u>YouTube</u>.