

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT R-1**

WHEREAS, the Colorado Constitution mandates:

1. That the general assembly shall establish and maintain a thorough and uniform system of free public schools within the state, and that the general supervision of the public schools shall be vested in a state board of education; and,
2. That the general assembly shall provide for the organization of school districts to be governed by locally elected boards of education that are vested with the control of instruction in the public schools of their respective districts; and,

WHEREAS, this Board of Education is authorized and charged by law with the responsibility to provide an educational program that meets the high expectations of the students, parents, and taxpayers within the School District; and,

WHEREAS, the general assembly has enacted legislation establishing a system of educational accountability based upon goals, objectives, content standards, standardized testing, assessment, school accreditation, and school accountability, which system has also been incorporated into the federal No Child Left Behind Act; and,

WHEREAS, neither the State of Colorado nor the federal government has provided adequate funding to permit local boards of education to meet the constitutional mandate to control instruction in their schools, the legislative mandate to achieve certain standards of student performance, and the expectations of the communities which they serve; and,

WHEREAS, the Colorado public school finance system is not designed to assure the level of funding necessary to provide the programs and services guaranteed by the Colorado Constitution and to meet the academic standards to which all school districts and their students are held accountable; and,

WHEREAS, the general assembly has failed to fund categorical and other programs intended to provide badly needed support for at risk student populations, low income families, second language learners, and special education students; and,

WHEREAS, the general assembly has failed to demonstrate the commitment or ability to provide for and fund an adequate and equitable system of public education; and,

WHEREAS, the school districts and their boards of education have special constitutional and statutory interests that are substantially independent of the state board of education, the general assembly, and the State of Colorado; and,

WHEREAS, the CASB and CASE governing boards have strongly endorsed the pending school finance adequacy litigation;

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED, that the Board of Education endorses and supports the pending litigation, referred to as *Lobato, et al. v. State of Colorado, et al.*, on behalf of parents, students, boards of education, and school districts in the State of Colorado to challenge the constitutionality of the Colorado public school finance system; and,

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that in furtherance of such litigation, the School District shall provide financial support by making a special contribution to assist in paying the expenses thereof, to be managed and distributed by CASB or a group organized by CASB. The amount of financial support shall be \$0.15 per funded student count of 84,769 or \$12,715.35.

Approved this 22nd day of February 2007, by a vote of 4 – 1.

Jane Barnes
President, Board of Education

Attest: _____
Scott D. Benefield
Secretary