

**JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
RESOLUTION  
2013 “YEAR OF THE STUDENT”**

**Resolution Calling on the Sixty-Ninth General Assembly to Take Meaningful Legislative Action in  
2013 to Improve Education Funding**

WHEREAS, public education is the bedrock of our democracy, fundamental to individual opportunity, and the key to Colorado’s economic recovery, prosperity and future; and

WHEREAS, the lives and livelihoods of Colorado’s children depend on the quality of the education and the breadth of the opportunities available to them, from preschool through higher education; and

WHEREAS, our community will thrive when *every* student graduates as a contributing, well-rounded, well-prepared citizen and life-long learner; and

WHEREAS, Colorado was already \$1,809 behind the national average in per pupil funding before the recession began according to data from the National Center for Education Statistics and ranked 48th in per capita funding of higher education according to the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the subsequent Great Recession, the State of Colorado has faced multiple years of budget shortfalls resulting in over \$2.6 billion in cumulative cuts to P-12 and higher education funding between the 2009-10 and 2012-13 school years; and

WHEREAS, these cuts in state funding are impeding the ability of Jeffco Public Schools to implement all the strategies necessary to ensure the successful educational experience of every student; and

WHEREAS, the need to reverse the impact of cuts is urgent and Colorado students cannot afford to wait even one more year for Colorado to start restoring lost opportunities, programs and teaching positions, investing in quality teaching, early childhood education, expanded learning opportunities and quality, affordable higher education; and

WHEREAS, Colorado has put in place reforms, policies, mandates, and pilot programs involving standards and accountability for preschool, K-12 schools, colleges and universities; educator quality; student achievement; and effective use of time and resources, so that Colorado students stand to benefit profoundly from new investment in public education; and

WHEREAS, local and federal funding sources cannot overcome recent budget cuts and chronic state underfunding; and

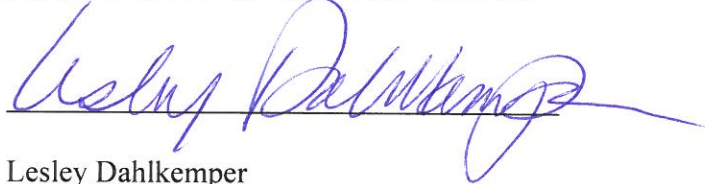
WHEREAS, a broad coalition of organizations and individuals throughout Colorado have joined together under the name of the “Year of the Student Project” to demand meaningful legislative action in 2013 toward improved investment in Colorado’s schools, colleges and universities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Public Schools Board of Education hereby joins with the Year of the Student Project in calling on the members of the 69<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to make 2013 the "Year of the Student," by using the 2013 legislative session to create and find funding for a public education finance system that matches reforms, mandates, and accountability measures with the resources necessary to make all students successful.

Adopted this 17th day of January, 2013.

JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT R-1

By:



Lesley Dahlkemper  
President, Board of Education

Attest:



Jill C. Fellman  
Secretary, Board of Education