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**Schools begin work on tough budget choices**
Every Jeffco school will be holding school-based budget meetings this week, Nov. 30 – Dec. 4, to help get grassroots input from the community on the 2010-2011 budget. The district must cut at least $18-$20 million from the budget for the next three years. Because many difficult choices lie ahead for the district, these budget workgroups are being asked to become familiar with Jeffco’s budget and make recommendations about where cuts should be made. Every Jeffco department will hold similar budget meetings this week.

The school budget committees include parents, community members, staff and students who were asked to participate in the process. The information gathered from the school and district workgroups will be available on the district Web site and will help guide the Jefferson County Board of Education when its members make final decisions about the budget in late spring, 2010.