



## Board of Education approves 2009-2010 budget

It's official - the 2009-2010 district budget was approved on Thursday, June 11, by the Jefferson County Board of Education. The approved budget is the result of extensive staff and community input collected since fall 2008. The \$670 million operating budget reflects \$11.8 million in budget cuts including 100 jobs. The job losses include teachers,

administrators and support staff. Most of the jobs eliminated will be handled through attrition and retirements.

To see the budget in its entirety, visit [www.jeffcopublicschools.org/finance/index.html](http://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/finance/index.html)

Here are some ways that parents and students will be affected by the budget cuts:

1. Parents may see larger class sizes in elementary grades because of fewer teachers.
2. Bus routes have been consolidated to make up for the loss of drivers.
3. Start and end times at some schools have changed because of reconfigured bus routes.

Parents should check school Web sites or the district home page, [www.jeffcopublicschools.org](http://www.jeffcopublicschools.org), for any changes in start and end times for schools.

The district finishes this school year with \$160 million in reserves; a very intentional savings account that will help Jeffco weather these tough economic times. In a Denver Post story last week, the headline read "[Brutal budget cuts loom in Colorado](#)". Even though the state gave a 4.9 percent increase to districts under the School Finance Act, it is expected that half of the money will be taken back in January 2010. In reality, Jeffco will only receive only a 3 percent increase in funding from the state. If the district didn't have reserves to fall back on, budget cuts this year and in following years would be devastating for students and employees. The district's budget team projects that the reserve balance will dip below the amount required by state law and board policy by 2012-2013.

## School board member resigns

The president of the Jefferson County School Board, Scott Benefield, is resigning from the board effective Tuesday, June 30, 2009. In a letter to fellow board members, Benefield said he is stepping down because of personal reasons.

"I have truly loved serving on the board with all of you," said Benefield. "I believe we have been a good board and have made good sound decisions and given direction that will enable

## Better beverage choices

This fall, Jeffco Schools will be offering healthier beverage choices thanks to Colorado Senate Bill 09-129. The new bill specifies that beverages sold to students on school grounds (including school cafeterias, vending machines and fundraising activities) will at a minimum, meet the standards listed below. This means that school vending machines and cafeterias will no longer sell soda or other sugary soft drinks. School-related events such as school plays, concerts and sporting events are exempt from these rules because adults are present.

### Here is what will be available: Elementary and Middle School

- Bottled water
- Fat free or low fat milk or nutritionally equivalent flavored milk up to 150 calories per 8 oz.
- Servings of 100% juice with no added sweeteners and up to 120 calories per 8 oz.

### High School

- Low calorie beverages with 10 calories or less per 8 oz. (e.g., unsweetened or diet teas, low calorie sport drinks, fitness waters, flavored waters, seltzers), no diet sodas
- Other drinks with 12 oz. or less per serving and 66 calories or less per 8 oz.
- At least 50% of non-milk beverages sold must be water and no or low calorie options

## How to keep kids learning in the summer

By eHow Education Editor

You can and should keep your kids learning all summer. This helps keep kids from relapsing in reading and other skills, helps them review areas they had difficulty in during school and prepares them for the next grade. Use a little creativity to make it fun and they may not even realize they are learning. Read on to learn how. [Read more](#)

## District introduces new parent notification system

Jeffco Public Schools is implementing a new parent notification system – **SchoolMessenger** – that will allow the school district to send important information quickly via phone e-mail and text messages to parents and guardians of students



Jeffco to lead Colorado in public education," he said.

Benefield was elected to the board in 2005 and represents District 1 which encompasses northern areas of the county including portions of Arvada, Standley Lake and Westminster.

"Scott has been a great friend to Jeffco Public Schools and has served with distinction. He will be missed by all of us and I wish him only the very best in the future," said Jeffco Superintendent Dr. Cindy Stevenson.

The board will meet in special session in early July to formally declare the vacancy, elect a new president and begin the process of selecting someone to fill the vacancy. Any registered elector who is a resident of [Director District 1](#) of the Jefferson County School District can apply for the open school board seat. Applicants should submit a letter of interest, resume and date of birth to Helen Neal, manager of Administrative Services, [hneal@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:hneal@jeffco.k12.co.us), by Friday, July 17, 2009.



### 2008-09 Year in Review Video

During the 2008-09 school year, our students excelled in academics, sports and the arts. It was a year of achievement and challenges. See our students and staff in action, [watch the 2008-09 Jeffco Public Schools Year in Review Video here](#).

about emergency situations, school cancellations and other important information. Schools will use the system to contact parents about attendance, test dates, grading periods, school activities, and more.

**SchoolMessenger**, from Reliance Communications, was selected through a competitive bidding process and is expected to save the district approximately \$187,000 a year over the previous Campus Messenger communications system.

During registration for the 2009-2010 school year, parents will be asked to review their emergency contact information and designate how they would like to receive **SchoolMessenger** communications, via phone, e-mail or text message. Look for additional information in the next *Chalk Talk*.

### Good news about Jeffco Schools

**COLLECTING FUNDS TO RAISE A ROOF**  
Shelton Elementary School teacher Stephen Nye believes every student should be a philanthropist. In his effort to teach children about charity and compassion, he started the annual *Shelton Has a Heart* charity drive five years ago. This year the school raised money for the Habitat for Humanity Youth Program. Students raised enough funds to build a house for a homeless family. Shelton is the only elementary school in Colorado working with this group and to date has raised \$11,108. Shelton raised \$1,100 for the Golden Christian Action Guild. [Read more](#)

