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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**JEFFCO'S ON-TIME GRADUATION RATE CLIMBS**

Jeffco Schools celebrates more students graduating from high school. Jeffco continues to make steady gains in the on-time graduation rate with a 2.3 percent increase to 81.4 percent.

In comparison, the Colorado Department of Education ranks the state graduation rate at 75.4 percent.

The district also boasts an increasing 2011-12 on-time graduation rate for its neighborhood high schools, which moved from 86.0 to 88.3 percent. The increase shows the district's emphasis on maintaining an upward trend in graduation rates.

"These results show that the hard work our schools have been doing is the right work," said Superintendent Cindy Stevenson. "It's important to acknowledge that preparation for graduation starts in preschool and kindergarten, where children make connections with adults who care about their success."

	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>
<b>On-time Graduation Rates</b>		
Jeffco's grad rate including option/charter schools	79.1%	81.4%
State of Colorado	73.9%	75.4%
Jeffco's grad rate for neighborhood high schools	86.0%	88.3%