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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW BASELINE SET FOR JEFFCO IN SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES

The new Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) tests in science and social studies show that Jeffco students are exceeding the state averages in both subject areas according to results released today by the Colorado Department of Education. Students in grades four, five, seven and eight, across the state, took the new tests last spring.

For the new categories, Jeffco students exceed the state in the overall strong (on grade level) and distinguished (above grade level) performance categories:

- 8 points higher in grade 5 science
- 12 points higher in grade 8 science
- 5 points higher in grade 4 social studies
- 6 points higher in grade 7 social studies

The CMAS tests measure student performance in a new way on the more rigorous Colorado Academic Standards and set a baseline for Colorado students. (The results cannot be compared to those used in the Transitional Colorado Assessment Program or TCAP – those tests are no longer being used.) The new tests measure performance against higher expectations for students and are given online for the first time. Students fall into one of four categories on CMAS:

- Distinguished command
- Strong command
- Moderate command
- Limited command

“We knew that fewer of our students would achieve at the highest level on these tests because we have raised the bar on the expectations. I’m pleased that we have more rigorous standards to ensure that students are on the path to career and college readiness,” said Jeffco Superintendent Dan McMinimee.