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Jeffco Students Outperform State in Several Testing Areas, But District Will Continue to Push for Greater Student Achievement

GOLDEN, Colo. (December 11, 2015) – Released today, results for the 2014-15 Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) state assessments show Jeffco students performed well relative to state results. Jeffco students outperformed the state for the percent of students who met or exceeded the English language arts (ELA) expectations at all grade levels. At the district level, students demonstrated consistent performance when interpreting informational and literary texts. Across all grade levels, the knowledge and use of writing conventions were relative strength areas, as well.

Jeffco students also performed relatively well on the mathematics test. All grade levels exceeded state performance for met or exceeded expectations; except for eighth grade where nearly 1,500 students took the Algebra I test instead of the CMAS math test and were not included in the eighth grade results.

For the 2014-15 school year, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) implemented new standards with higher expectations to better prepare students for success in college and career. CDE also revised the CMAS state assessments to align to these new, more challenging Colorado Academic Standards. According to CDE, scores for the new CMAS tests were expected to be lower than previous assessments and serve as a new baseline to measure future student growth. Students' individual CMAS scores will be available in January.

"The district just received these new scores, so it will take time to begin to understand the new CMAS results and how to interpret them," said Superintendent Dan McMinimee. "While we performed well compared to the state, we realize that there is work to do in moving toward the new expectations of college and career readiness."

Schools and district staff will continue to analyze these baseline results to determine strengths and needs to ensure alignment with curriculum and resources. These results will also be reviewed with current data from school assessments and MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) district benchmark scores to create a more complete picture of student performance.

About Jeffco Public Schools

Jeffco Public Schools has been providing educational excellence for more than 60 years. Approximately nine percent of all the K-12 students in Colorado attend a Jeffco School. Our mission is to provide a quality education that prepares all children for a successful future. The district has 155 schools on 168 campuses. Additional information about Jeffco Public Schools can be found at JeffcoPublicSchools.org.

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