



# Jefferson Community Report





## **THE BIG VISION: ALL KIDS IN THE JEFFERSON AREA SUCCEED FROM CRADLE TO CAREER**

**Jeffco Schools is excited to join with the Jefferson Success Pathway Community Partners in supporting students and families in the Jefferson Area. Your partnership and commitment helps provide much needed support to our area schools as they implement our 3 Pillars of our new “Jefferson Plan”; Professional Learning Communities, Language for Achievement, and Culture and Engagement. We believe a strong focus on these three pillars, along with collaboration and teamwork with our surrounding community, will provide our students a successful and rewarding journey from “cradle to career”.**

**We all benefit when many people and organizations work together with the common purpose of student success.**

**Thank you.**

**Daniel M. McMinimee  
Superintendent  
Jeffco Public Schools**

# **THE REALITY**

**Students and families in Jefferson Area schools  
are working hard every day to overcome  
roadblocks to success**

**Don't fix the blame. Fix the problem together.**



## **What is the Jefferson Success Pathway?**

The Jefferson Success Pathway began with the realization that to help all kids in our area succeed, we need to work together. Our desire is to bring parents, teachers and organizations together to work toward this vision of cradle to career success.

We believe that by aligning all community members around a common vision and keeping them accountable to goals and indicators, ALL children can succeed from cradle to career.

The Jefferson Success Pathway is a coalition of community members, nonprofit organizations, county agencies and Jeffco Schools staff devoted to seeing all kids in the Jefferson Area succeed from cradle to career.

# Working Together. Aligning Efforts.



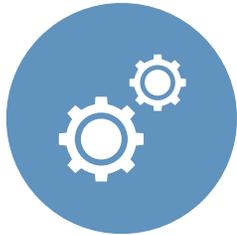
## **Common Vision**

Our partners have a shared vision of all kids succeeding from cradle to career and have agreed to a shared process of making this vision a reality



## **Shared Indicators**

We measure the success of our work through shared indicators of student success and partners keep each other accountable to the results



## **Aligned Resources**

We use data to show which programs are helping students succeed and align resources to bring these programs to more students

# Our Community

Our focus is on those children and families living in the 80214 zip code of Jefferson County, Colorado. This zip code has the highest percentage of residents living below the poverty line in Jefferson County.

This zip code includes portions of southeastern Wheat Ridge, Edgewater and northeastern Lakewood.

This community is in a state of transition as home prices and rents are rising quickly due to the booming Colorado economy.

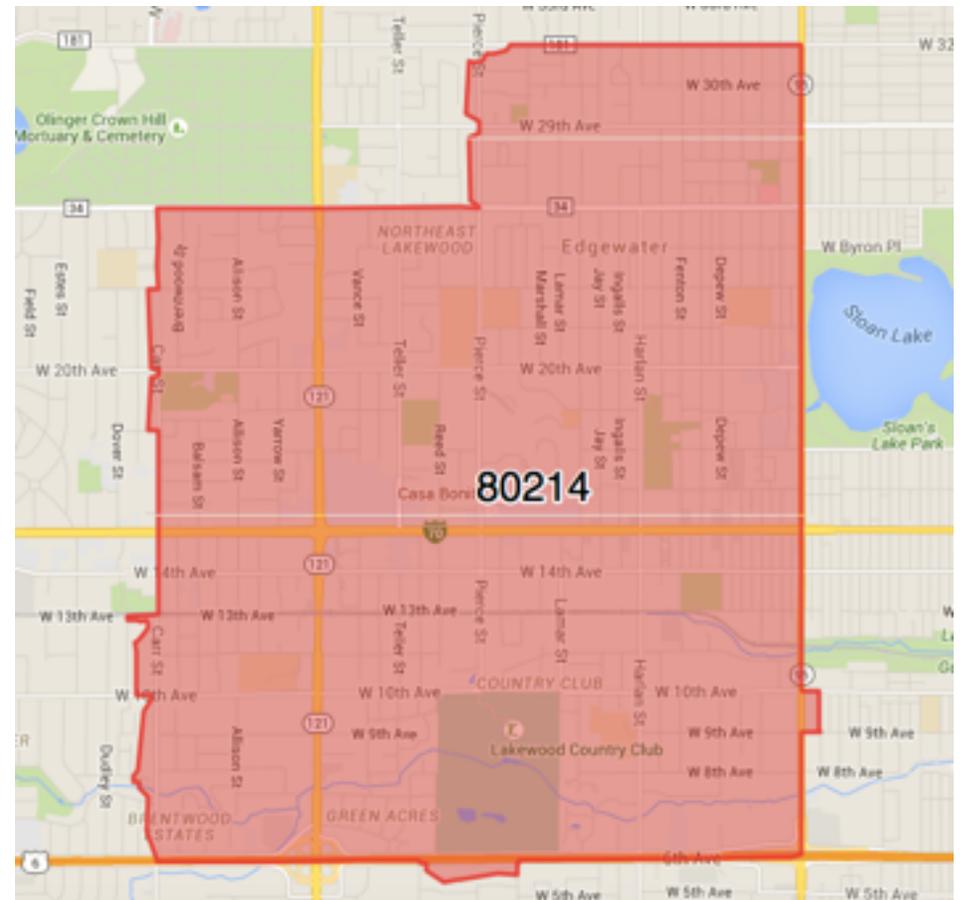
This raises the immediacy of our project as families are being priced out of the area and affordable housing in metro Denver is increasingly hard to find.

18.2% of residents live below the poverty line.

17.8% speak Spanish

6,123 residents 19 and under

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 5-Year American Community Survey



# Our Schools

We are concentrating our efforts in K-12 on all of the schools that funnel into Jefferson Junior/Senior High School in Edgewater. These schools include Edgewater Elementary School, Lumberg Elementary School, Molholm Elementary School and Jefferson Junior/Senior High School.

## **Edgewater Elementary School**

456 students  
82% Hispanic  
93.7% Attendance Rate  
83.3% Free Lunch Rate/91% Free and Reduced Lunch Rate  
52.9% English Language Learners

Source: Jeffco Schools School Profile 2014-2015

## **Lumberg Elementary School**

520 students  
75.6% Hispanic  
92.8% Attendance Rate  
82.5% Free Lunch Rate/89.2% Free and Reduced Lunch Rate  
45.2% English Language Learners

Source: Jeffco Schools School Profile 2014-2015

## **Molholm Elementary School**

493 students  
79.1% Hispanic  
92% Attendance Rate  
88.6% Free Lunch Rate/94.5% Free and Reduced Lunch Rate  
47.9% English Language Learners

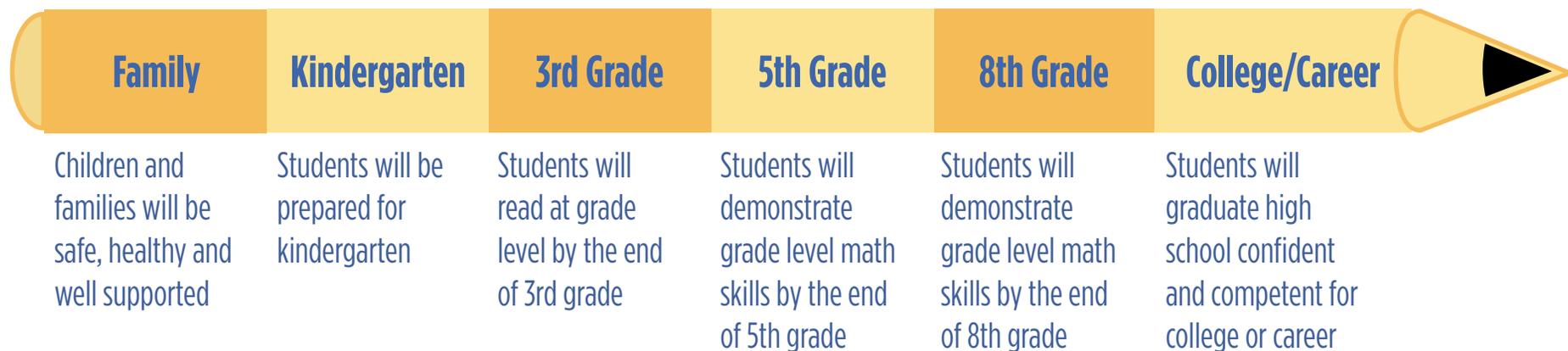
Source: Jeffco Schools School Profile 2014-2015

## **Jefferson High School**

489 students  
83.6% Hispanic  
83.8% Attendance Rate  
75.1% Free Lunch Rate/84.7% Free and Reduced Lunch Rate  
51.1% English Language Learners

Source: Jeffco Schools School Profile 2014-2015

# Pathway Goals



Just like a football team needs to be using the same playbook and focusing on the same goals, our community is rallying around common goals for student success.

These Pathway Goals will show us how we are progressing in our dream that each student progresses from the cradle to a great career. Each of these goals is an important milestone in the education of a child. For instance, if a student reads at grade level by the end of third grade, their chance of graduating high school increases exponentially.

The following pages will show us where our local students are in regards to these goals. Most importantly, it will also give each of us action steps we can take to help local children succeed in school and into a great career.

# Goal 1: Family Health

## Children and families will be safe, healthy and well supported

One of our main core values is that all parents and guardians want their children to succeed in school and life. Another core value in our work is that even though families might face the roadblocks of poverty, they have assets and skills that can be leveraged for the good of the community. We see our community in terms of its assets, not its deficits.

Our network of partners is working hard to build relationships with parents and empower them for family success and health. In the midst of a growing economy, it is important that all families have the resources they need to succeed.

This first year, we are tracking the number of children who are homeless because we believe success in school starts with a safe living arrangement. The numbers below are self-reported at school registrations in the fall. A student who is considered homeless (lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence) and unaccompanied (not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian) can be registered as an unaccompanied homeless youth under the McKinney-Vento Act.

**157**

**Homeless Students**

**27**

**Unaccompanied Youth**

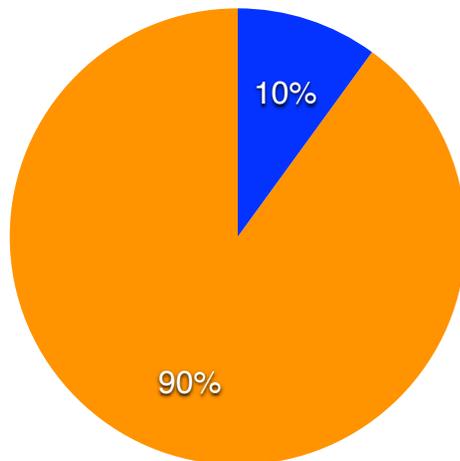
# Family Health Reality

## Many children and families face daily challenges that are hard to overcome

One of the biggest roadblocks in the Jefferson Area is family income. The indicator we use to measure family income is the percentage of students who receive free or reduced lunch rates. To receive reduced lunch rates, a family of four will make less than \$44,123 a year and to receive free lunch rates a family of four will make less than \$23,850 a year. According to the Colorado Center on Law and Policy, a family with two adults, one school age child and one preschooler would need to make \$70,216 a year to be self-sufficient in Jefferson County. The stresses of an inadequate amount of family income have a large impact on success in the classroom.

Free/Reduced Lunch Rate  
in Jefferson Area

Fall 2014

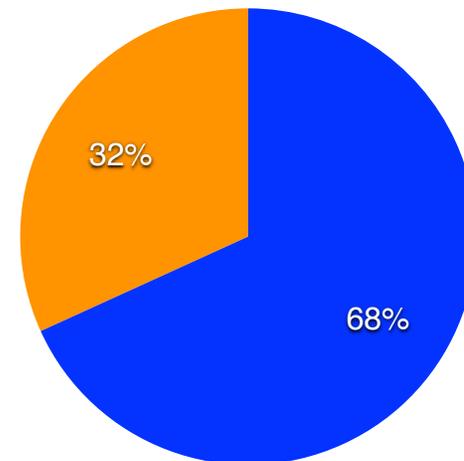


● Non FRL

● FRL

Free/Reduced Lunch Rate  
in Jeffco Schools

Fall 2014



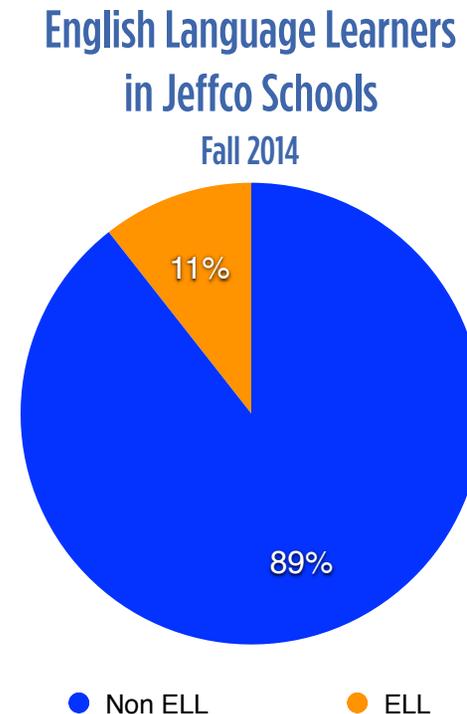
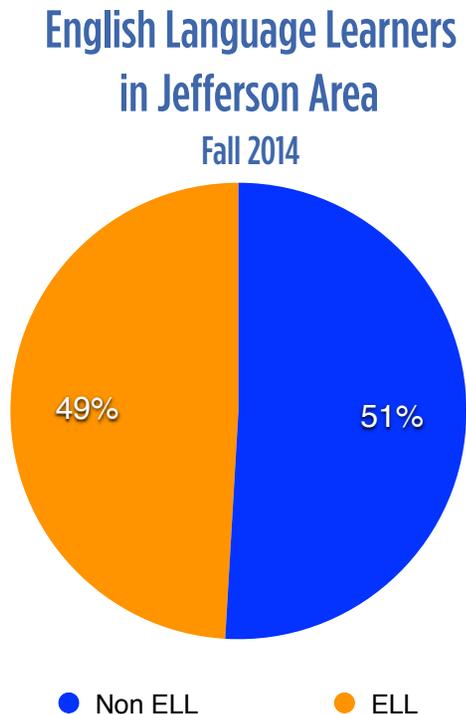
● Non FRL

● FRL

# English Language Learners (ELL) and Success in School

## 49% of students in the Jefferson Area are learning English

49% of students in the Jefferson Area are learning English as a second language. Some of these students are Spanish speaking and learning in a dual language classroom. The goal is that these students will be proficient in English by 5th grade, but until then they will have more difficulty demonstrating proficiency on reading tests in English. It is not accurate to hold these students to the same standards as English speaking students. In subsequent Community Reports, we will differentiate the test scores of ELL students from their English speaking classmates to show growth among these unique populations.



# Action Steps to Increase Family Health

## Community Members

- Be a voice for affordable housing in your area, so we can maintain the diversity that makes our community great
- Advocate for healthy food availability at reasonable prices

## Parents

- Connect with the Action Center to find resources to empower you as a parent and help you provide for your family
- Attend various workshops throughout the community that will help you learn new skills and provide a pathway out of economic instability
- Research continuing education classes and degrees through great Community Partners like Red Rocks Community College
- Learn more about and include healthy food choices in meals.
- Cook with your children and teach them healthy habits

## Business Owners

- Advocate for affordable housing and mixed-housing developments in the 80214 zip code
- Hire local parents who need a fresh start and job training

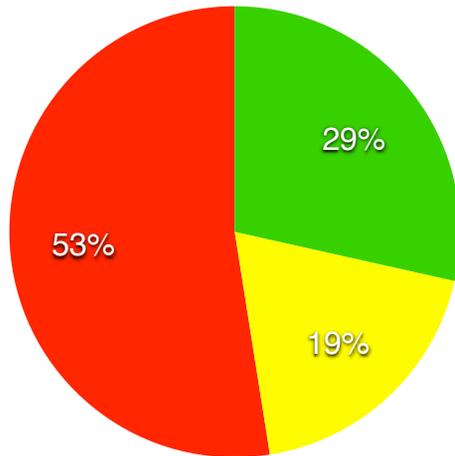


# Goal 2: Kindergarten Readiness

## Students will be prepared for kindergarten

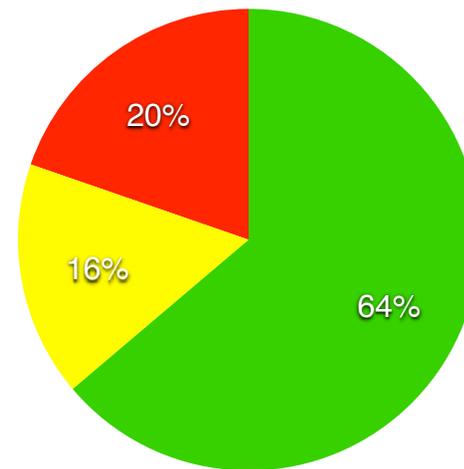
To measure readiness for kindergarten, we are using results of the DIBELS test that kindergarten students take at the beginning of the school year. This test measures the critical skills necessary for successful beginning reading. The DIBELS test is done in English, so it is not an accurate measurement for students learning to read in Spanish within a dual language kindergarten classroom.

Jefferson Area Results  
Fall 2015



● At or Above Benchmark ● Below Benchmark  
● Well Below Benchmark

District Results  
Fall 2015



● At or Above Benchmark ● Below Benchmark  
● Well Below Benchmark

# Kindergarten Readiness Reality

## Our students are not prepared for kindergarten

Jefferson Area kindergarten students start kindergarten behind in the critical skills necessary to learn to read.



**Only 3 in 10 Jefferson Area students  
are ready for kindergarten**

## Action Steps to Increase Kindergarten Readiness

### Community Members

- Encourage your neighbors to enroll their children in preschool or other early learning opportunities

### Parents

- Visit the local library and read to your kids often
- Enroll your child in preschool
- Take advantage of great programs like HIPPY and Parent Child Home Program that train you how to prepare your child for kindergarten
- Talk to and engage with your children throughout the day as much as you can. Ask them about what they are seeing and what is happening in their world and environment. Talking with your children develops the vocabulary needed for school success.

### Business Owners

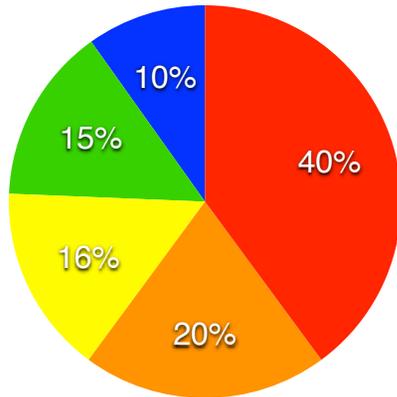
- Encourage and fund more preschool and early childhood centers in the 80214 zip code

# Goal 3: 3rd Grade Reading

## Students will read at grade level by the end of 3rd grade

Reading at grade level by the end of 3rd grade is an important indicator of a student's chances of graduating from high school. In third grade students transition from learning to read to reading to learn. We are using the MAP Reading Assessment results to track growth in reading for Jefferson Area students. 3rd grade students take this assessment three times a school year so teachers can tailor teaching to the student's reading level. For English Language Learners, reading proficiency is usually behind by one year in English by third grade, but they should be at grade level in Spanish.

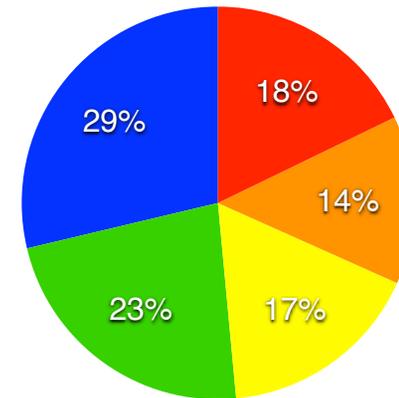
**Jefferson Area Results**  
Fall 2015



● Low ● Low Average ● Average ● High Average ● High

Percentage of students scoring in each percentile

**District Results**  
Fall 2015



● Low ● Low Average ● Average ● High Average ● High

Percentage of students scoring in each percentile

# Third Grade Reading Reality

Our students are behind in reading and need to catch up



**6 in 10 Jefferson Area 3rd graders are behind in reading**

## Action Steps to Increase 3rd Grade Reading

### Community Members

- Volunteer to read after school with 1st-3rd grade students at one of our elementary schools

### Parents

- Visit the local library and check out grade level appropriate books that your child enjoys
- Enroll your child in an afterschool reading program
- Eat dinner as a family and talk to them about what they are learning in school
- Talk and engage with your child and ask what they are seeing and what is happening in their world and environment. Talking with your children develops the vocabulary needed for school success.

### Business Owners

- Purchase grade level appropriate books for local students
- Invest in afterschool programs that increase 3rd grade reading scores

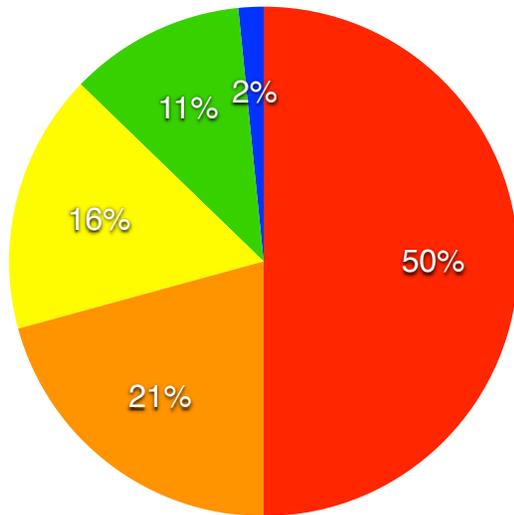


# Goal 4: 5th Grade Math

## Students will demonstrate grade level math skills by the end of 5th grade

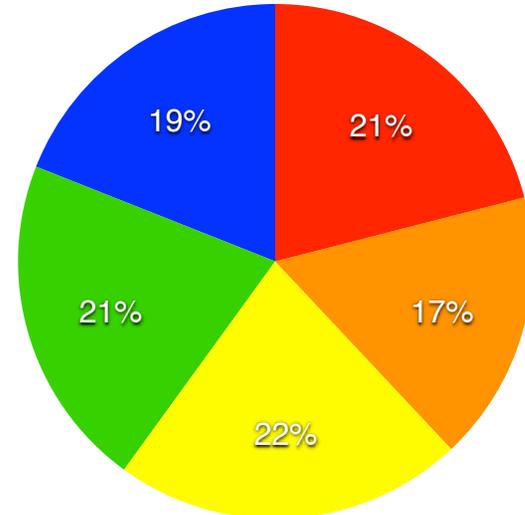
5th grade math is an important foundation for middle and high school math. We are using the MAP Math Assessment results to track growth in math.

Jefferson Area Results  
Fall 2015



● Low ● Low Average ● Average ● High Average ● High  
Percentage of students scoring in each percentile

District Results  
Fall 2015



● Low ● Low Average ● Average ● High Average ● High  
Percentage of students scoring in each percentile

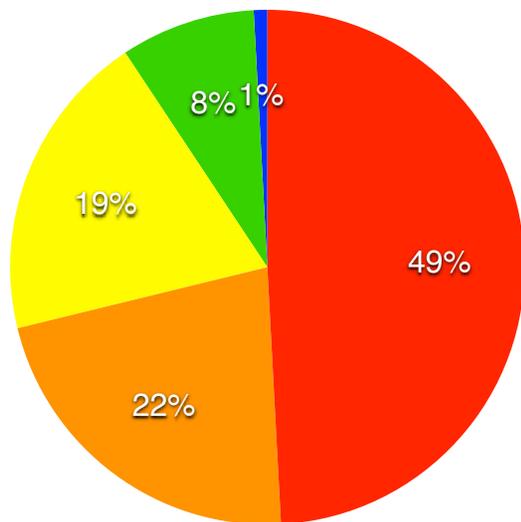
# Goal 5: 8th Grade Math

## Students will demonstrate grade level math skills by the end of 8th grade

8th grade math is an important indicator of which college prep math classes students will take. We are using the MAP Math Assessment results.

### Jefferson Junior High Results

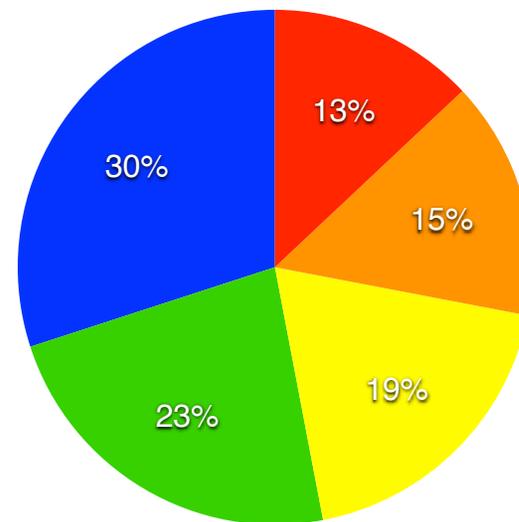
Fall 2015



● Low ● Low Average ● Average ● High Average ● High  
Percentage of students scoring in each percentile

### District Results

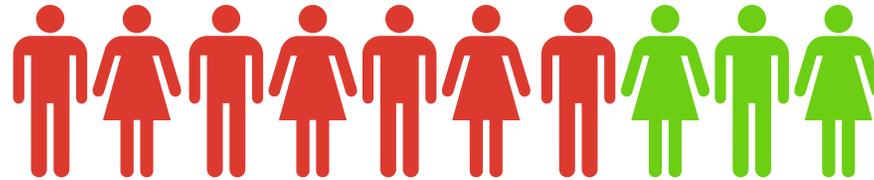
Fall 2015



● Low ● Low Average ● Average ● High Average ● High  
Percentage of students scoring in each percentile

# 5th and 8th Grade Math Reality

Most 5th and 8th grade students are behind in math and need to catch up by the end of the year



**7 in 10 Jefferson Area 5th and 8th graders are behind in math**

## Action Steps to Increase 5th and 8th Grade Math

### Community Members

- Volunteer in afterschool programs that create a love for math and science

### Parents

- Visit [khanacademy.org](https://www.khanacademy.org) to learn the math concepts your children are learning so you can help them with homework
- Enroll your child in an afterschool program like Open World Learning that inspires a love for math and science
- Show your child how you use math in your work and at home. Have your children practice estimating with math while shopping, etc.

### Business Owners

- Share your career story during a Career Day at a local elementary
- Invest in afterschool programs like Open World Learning that inspire students to pursue a STEM career

# Goal 6: College and Career Readiness

## Students will graduate high school confident and competent for college or career

We believe that it is important for Jefferson Junior/Senior High graduates to feel confident about their path after high school as well as be competent with the skills necessary for what comes next. For some it might be college while others might enter a career after high school. Because data on graduation rates are reported a year later, we are focused on the Jefferson Class of 2014 for this year's Community Report.

### The Class of 2014

**65.1%\***

**Graduation Rate**

**6%**

**12th Grade Dropout Rate**

**16.1**

**Average ACT Score**

\* The Jefferson graduation rate does not include the students who are part of the ASCENT program through Red Rocks Community College. Qualifying students have the option to participate in a fifth year program that allows seniors to remain enrolled in high school and take a fifth year consisting entirely of college classes at the Red Rocks Community College campus.

# College and Career Readiness Reality

Jefferson graduates are not adequately prepared for the demands of college and career

Jeffco Schools - District Results

21.5 Average ACT Score

Jefferson High School

16.1 Average ACT Score

## Action Steps to Increase College and Career Readiness

### Community Members

- Volunteer as a mentor for Goodwill's Career Plus Mentoring class or Senior Connection's Street Cred program

### Parents

- Enroll your student in Goodwill's Career Plus Mentoring class at Jefferson Junior/Senior High School
- Research college prep classes and scholarships with a Jefferson Guidance Counselor
- Be involved with your student's individual ICAP 6 year graduation plan and help them set goals to achieve their ICAP plan yearly

### Business Owners

- Hire a Jefferson Junior/Senior High student and provide them with a supportive environment to learn career skills





# Next Steps for Community Partners

We have organized our Community Partners into three different Collaborative Action Teams to use this data to align resources, share best practices and scale up what works in the Jefferson Area.

Our Collaborative Action Teams:

- **Kindergarten Readiness**
- **K-12 Success**
- **College and Career Success**

These teams meet every other month to collaborate and strategize how to increase the milestone goals in their area of work.

For more information about these Action Teams, visit [jeffersonsuccess.org](http://jeffersonsuccess.org).



## Next Steps for Parents

The most important of these roles is engaging in your child's education at home. We have numerous partners that can equip and train you to help your child succeed in school. Here are some other ways you can engage in this work:

### **School Accountability Committees**

Each school has a School Accountability Committee (SAC) that allows parents to have a voice in the budget process and academic strategies of the school. Speak to your school principal if you would like to join this committee.

### **Parent Seminars**

Throughout the year, there are numerous parent education and empowerment seminars to equip you as a parent. Visit [jeffersonsuccess.org](http://jeffersonsuccess.org) for a schedule of these classes.

### **Join a Collaborative Action Team**

If you have a passion for a specific age group, join one of our Action Teams. More info at [jeffersonsuccess.org](http://jeffersonsuccess.org).

# Our Community Partners

Bright by Three

Jeffco Nurse-Family Partnership

HIPPY

PCHP (Parent-Child Home Program)

Renaissance Children's Center

TRIAD Early Childhood Council

Child Care Innovations

Lakewood Head Start

Jefferson County Head Start

Jefferson County Public Library

Great Work Montessori

Jeffco Public Schools

Jeffco 4-H

OpenWorld Learning

Jeffco Schools Foundation

Jefferson Unitarian Church

Mile Hi Church

Mountair Christian Church

Iglesia Apostólica

Red Rocks Community College

Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design (RMCAD)

Rashaan Salaam S.P.I.N. Foundation

Jovial Concepts

City of Lakewood

Jeffco Human Services

Jeffco Public Health

Alternatives Pregnancy Center

Whiz Kids Tutoring

Edgewater Collective

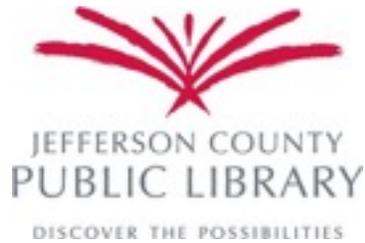
21st Century Community Learning Centers

Goodwill Industries

Jefferson Center for Mental Health

Metro Community Provider Network (MCPN)

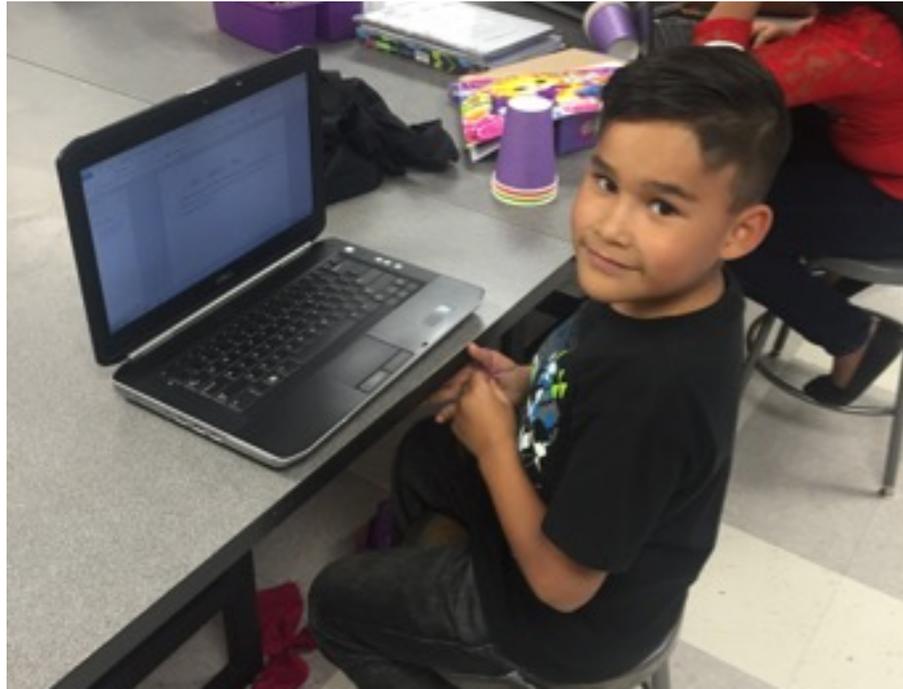
# Our Leadership Council



**If you want to go fast,  
go alone.**

**If you want to go far,  
go together.**

**African Proverb**



**For more information  
visit [jeffersonsuccess.org](http://jeffersonsuccess.org)**