

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT R-1
ON AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, autism is a pervasive developmental disorder affecting the social, communication and behavioral skills of students affected by it; and,

WHEREAS, health professionals are becoming more proficient in diagnosing children along the autism spectrum which affects each child in different ways ranging from very mild to severe, sharing similar symptoms but differences in onset, severity, and exact nature, resulting in national rates of one in 68 children, with boys affected at a rate of one in 42 and girls at one in 189; and,

WHEREAS, while there is no cure for autism, it is well-documented that if individuals with autism receive early and intensive treatment throughout their lives, they lead significantly improved lives; and,

WHEREAS, while Colorado has been a leader in connecting families with resources to identify development delays, in 2012 only 41 percent of children with autism spectrum disorder who were eight years old received in-depth development evaluation before they were three years old; and,

WHEREAS, Jeffco Public Schools (JPS) currently serves 619 students with autism; 241 of those students learn in one of Jeffco's 21 specialized center based programs and the remaining 378 or 61 percent of our students with autism being served in a regular neighborhood school with support; and,

WHEREAS, each one of these Jeffco students with autism is so uniquely gifted and uniquely challenged that each needs to be thoughtfully considered, appreciated and supported for who they are along their learning pathway; and,

WHEREAS, federal IDEA grant funds (17% or \$15.6 million) are combined with JPS general funds (83% or \$76.3 million) to support all special education students in Jefferson County including our students along the autism spectrum; and,

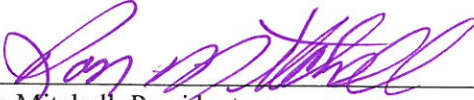
WHEREAS, Jeffco Public Schools is thankful for its community partnerships with The ARC of Colorado, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), and Autism Society of Colorado who together help us in meeting the needs of our students with autism and their families by offering resources to parents (www.cdc.gov/milestones; www.cdc.gov/ncbddd.autism/data.html); and,

WHEREAS, the Jeffco Public Schools has a 20 member parent, staff and community group, the ASD Strategic Planning Committee, spearheading program development across the district relying on the CDE Autism Program Quality Indicators;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Jeffco Public Schools Board of Education does hereby recognize the month of April as National Autism Awareness Month in Jeffco Public Schools, to increase awareness across the county so that if parents have questions about how their three year old child plays, learns, speaks, acts or moves they can talk to their child's doctor, call Early Intervention Colorado or contact Jeffco Public Schools for an early assessment; and, urges all employees, parents and residents to become better educated about autism to create a community of support, inclusion and understanding for individuals with autism.


Approved and adopted this 6th day of April 2017.

JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT R-1



Ron Mitchell, President

Attest:



Amanda Stevens, Secretary