

Jeffco Public Schools 2011-12 proposed budget cut FAQs

How much does Jeffco save by closing a school?

By closing two schools, Martensen and Zerger elementary schools, Jeffco saves approximately \$300,000 per school, per year. Martensen enrollment is 240, Zerger enrollment is 291.

What is the cost-savings of closing the outdoor education lab schools?

Jeffco saves \$900,000 per year, which equals 20 teaching jobs, by suspending both Mt. Evans and Windy Peak outdoor education labs.

What percentage of the 2011-12 budget is the \$40 million in cuts?

The 2011-12 budget/general fund is \$667 million. By making \$40 million in cuts the budget is slashed to \$627 million, which means approximately 6 percent of the 2011-12 budget/general fund.

How many jobs will be lost in Jeffco?

There will be a loss of 212 jobs throughout the district, including administrative, support staff and teachers. Of the \$40 million in cuts, \$16 million is being carried by Jeffco Schools employees.

Will Jeffco's employee compensation be affected?

Yes, all employees will feel a three percent loss of compensation, resulting in a four-work-day reduction and two student-contact furlough days.

How big do you expect class sizes to be next year?

Jeffco families will see an increase in class sizes in most elementary school classrooms. Right now, kindergarten class size is 24 and grades 1-3 are 20 students per class. Grade 4 has 24 students per class and grades 5-6 have 28 students per class.

Will classes be affected in middle and high schools?

Yes, middle school and high schools will offer fewer scheduling options to students.

How much will you charge for bus transportation?

An annual bus fee of \$150 per student will be charged for elementary, middle and high school. A proposed bus fee of \$175 per student will be charged to option school student families.

How much will you charge for athletic fees?

The increased fee has not been set, but it will increase from the current \$125 annual athletic fee.

Jeffco's Budget Timeline

November 2010 – The Jefferson County Board of Education holds community budget forums to announce over \$20 million in reductions to the 2011-12 school year. The \$20 million included a spend down of district reserves funding and possible employee furlough days.

January 6 – Members of the board are presented with the *Preliminary Facilities Master Plan* compiled by Jeffco's Facilities Planning & Design and Construction Management departments, along with the help of Jacobs Engineering.

January 20 -- The Jefferson County Board of Education votes to postpone the 2011 non-bond recommendations and to not implement the \$3.5 million recommendations for fall 2011.

February 15 -- Governor John Hickenlooper announces a reduction to the state's education spending by \$375 million. Jeffco was forced to cut \$40 million from the 2011-12 budget.

March 4 & 5 -- Jeffco Employee Summit is held with two representatives from all three associations: Jefferson County Employee Association (JCEA), Classified School Employee Association (CSEA), Jefferson County Administrators Association (JCAA), district cabinet leaders and board members, along with a federal mediator. The task was to cut \$39.9 million from Jeffco's 2011-12 budget in response to the governor's new budget proposal.

History of Jeffco's outdoor education labs

Mount Evans Outdoor Education Lab School (OEL) near Evergreen – The land the Mount Evans OEL sits on was sold to Jeffco Public Schools in 1961 and serves as an operating ranch and outdoor lab school for Jeffco Schools' sixth-graders. Students live at the ranch for a week and study the history of the ranch, ecology, wildlife, geology, and astronomy. The property's main lodge was restored in the 1960s to become a showcase of different eras in American history -- examples include the late Victorian era, World Wars I and II, the Depression, and the Cold War. Students get a first-hand look at historical items and lifestyles, but for many students, the outdoor school is their first introduction to Colorado's rich wildlife and ecology. Many students return as lab school leaders during high school. More than 100 sixth-graders a week participate in the outdoor courses during the school year. More than 6,000 students have visited the lab over the past 10 years. Mount Evans website: http://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/programs/outdoor_ed/

Windy Peak Outdoor Education Lab School near Bailey – The first settlers on the nearly 500 acres of land arrived in the 1800s and the property transferred between families, while experiencing many changes. The land was run as a popular Colorado mountain retreat for years, until Jeffco Public Schools bought the property in 1975. The mission of the OEL is to enhance and enrich student learning as an integral part of sixth-grade curricula by providing opportunities for hands-on, experiential, authentic learning in an outdoor setting. In addition, OELS fosters opportunities for student growth in environmental stewardship through an enhanced awareness, appreciation and sense of responsibility for the environment, themselves and others. Windy Peak website: <http://jeffcoweb.jeffco.k12.co.us/elem/windypeak/peak.html>

Jeffco Public Schools website: www.jeffcopublicschools.org