



Greeley-Evans School District 6

I'm District 6.



Greeley-Evans School District 6

**2025** **REPORT** TO THE **COMMUNITY**

# District 6 by the Numbers



**3,800**

EMPLOYEES WORK  
IN DISTRICT 6  
(One of the largest  
employers in Weld  
County)



**22,000**

MEALS ARE  
SERVED ON  
AVERAGE DAILY  
AT OUR  
SCHOOL SITES.



**80+**

DIFFERENT  
LANGUAGES ARE  
SPOKEN BY STUDENTS  
AT DISTRICT 6



**1:1**

COMPUTER  
DEVICES FOR ALL  
STUDENTS



**87.3%**

OF OUR STUDENTS  
GRADUATE ON TIME  
(Above the state  
average of 84.2 percent)



**166**

STUDENTS EARNED  
THE PRESTIGIOUS  
AP SCHOLARS AWARD

**23,124**

TOTAL PK-12  
STUDENT  
MEMBERSHIP  
AS OF  
OCTOBER 2024



**13<sup>th</sup>**

LARGEST SCHOOL  
DISTRICT IN  
THE STATE  
OF COLORADO  
(Moving up two  
positions from  
last year!)



MORE THAN  
**1,000**

District 6 students enrolled in courses  
at AIMS Community College,  
the University of Northern Colorado  
and other colleges, with tuition paid  
through the District 6 Mill Levy Override

Greeley-Evans  
School District 6

## BOARD OF EDUCATION



Taylor Sullivan  
Director



Dr. Brenda Campos-Spitz  
Director



Rob Norwood  
Director



Michael Mathews  
Director



Doran Azari  
Director



Natalie Mash  
President



Kyle Bentley  
Vice President

A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT  
**DR. DEIRDRE PILCH**



In the decade that I have served as Superintendent of Greeley-Evans School District 6, I can honestly say I have never been more proud of our school district, staff, students and our community than I am right now.

We have so much to celebrate this year in District 6, from a sizable increase in our on-time graduation rates, to many incredible state and national honors for our staff and students, to strong community partnerships that provide resources and opportunities to the students we serve.

I am incredibly proud and grateful for all we have achieved this year in District 6. And there is always more work to do to ensure all our students succeed, meet their academic and personal goals, and have a plan for their future and a path to get there. All this and more is embedded in our strategic plan, Innovation2030, which drives the work of District 6 every day.

In this annual Report to the Community, you will learn more about the major goals and objectives of Innovation2030. You will also read about some of the amazing staff and students who have achieved great success during this school year. You will learn about our Portrait of a Graduate initiative, which will help us to instill the qualities and characteristics in our students that the community wants and needs. Our Department of Safety and Security has also been busy this year, working to make schools and buildings safer for our students and staff. You will get a glance at what the next school year will bring.

The 2024-2025 school year has also brought new challenges. Uncertainty in funding at the state and national level has been a stress on the system as we work to make cuts to balance our budget. There are still uncertainties about some of the actions at the federal level, including the planned dissolution of the U.S. Department of Education, changes in U.S. Department of Agriculture funding for our school meal program and other initiatives that potentially could have a fiscal and systemic impact on public schools nationwide.

What I do know is that we are even more deeply committed to public education than ever before. We will continue to provide an excellent education, support services and opportunities for the amazing students and families we serve. In my nearly 40 years as a public educator, I have personally witnessed public education change the trajectory of students' lives. We have a moral obligation to give each student in District 6 the knowledge and skills they need to reach their full potential and give back to their communities as employees, entrepreneurs, volunteers and citizens. That is what makes a strong school district, a strong community and a strong nation.

We are so grateful for the support of Greeley and Evans as we do this important work. We simply couldn't do it without you.

Deirdre Pilch, EdD  
 Superintendent of Schools

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# INNOVATION

I'm District 6.

# 2030



Greeley-Evans School District 6 is continuing to work on the goals and objectives outlined in its strategic plan, Innovation2030.

## MISSION

District 6 engages every student in a personalized, well-rounded and excellent education, preparing students to be college and career ready.

## VISION

District 6 engages, empowers and inspires today's students in partnership with families and communities to succeed in tomorrow's world.

## VALUES AND BELIEFS

- Our students come first.
- We know every child can achieve.
- We believe diversity is a strength.
- We ensure safe, secure and healthy schools.
- We build positive relationships with students, families and communities.
- We promote access, opportunity and choice.
- We commit to hiring and retaining quality staff.
- We commit to excellence, innovation and continuous improvement.

With four focus areas - Student Learning and Achievement, Climate and Culture, Operational and Organizational Effectiveness and Strengthening Partnerships - teams are working to implement action plans in each of these areas across District 6.

The work includes devising new strategies to hire and retain staff, supporting student learning, providing support for student behaviors, enhancing safety and security, engaging parents and guardians in their children's education, reviewing facility needs throughout the district, creating a community partnership plan for every school and fully implementing a plan for students and staff to give back to the community through volunteerism.

Innovation2030 is a living, working strategic plan that directs the overall work of the district. To learn more and monitor the progress of this plan, visit [www.greeleyschools.org/Innovation2030](http://www.greeleyschools.org/Innovation2030).





## STUDENT LEARNING & ACHIEVEMENT

District 6 engages all students in a challenging and personalized education, preparing each student to be career and college ready.

Provide a personalized learning experience so all students graduate on time and are career and college ready

Implement consistent and coherent aligned curriculum, assessment and instructional practices that are research-based to ensure all students learn



## STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

District 6 enhances student success by communicating, engaging and collaborating with our communities and school partners.

Strengthen relationships with parents and families

Communicate and collaborate with external stakeholders including businesses, local government and community organizations



## OPERATIONAL & ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

District 6 ensures innovation, transparency and accountability to our community through measurable outcomes and continuous improvement.

Align district resources to meet the needs of all students and staff

Maximize the recruitment, hiring and retention of all employees in the district



## CLIMATE & CULTURE

District 6 cultivates a safe, healthy and inclusive learning environment for all, embracing our diversity and engaging all stakeholders.

Develop cultural responsiveness throughout the organization

Support the social, emotional and physical well-being of students and staff



For more information, glossary of terms and measures of progress visit:

[www.greeleyschools.org/innovation2030](http://www.greeleyschools.org/innovation2030)



Greeley-Evans School District 6

I'm District 6.



The 2024-2025 school year in District 6 has had us celebrating! So many great things have been happening for students, staff and the community that we feel like we want to shout from the rooftops how great it is to be in District 6!

From celebrating the 2025 Superintendent of the Year to graduating more students on time than ever before, District 6 shows that public education provides opportunities for everyone to be great! We want you to join us in recognizing some of our outstanding accomplishments this year.

## Colorado Superintendent of the Year 2025 Awarded to Dr. Deirdre Pilch



For the last decade, Dr. Deirdre Pilch has served as the Superintendent of Greeley-Evans School District 6, working hard with her staff to improve student achievement and graduation rates, enhance career pathways for students, improve relationships in the community and with her staff, she has worked to get more resources through a Mill Levy Override and Bond Election and increase career exploration opportunities for students.

All this work and more was recognized this year when the Colorado Association of School Executives named Dr. Pilch Colorado Superintendent of the Year.

The selection committee noted that the 2025 award process was particularly competitive with a number of outstanding candidates. One of the things that stood out to the committee is Dr. Pilch's long-standing advocacy not just for her own school district, but for every district in the state. They were impressed by her outspoken championing for public education and passion for continuing to raise the bar for students.

"Ultimately, we all share the desire that our students receive a strong public education and the support they need to succeed," she said. "That's far more powerful than the issues that divide us."

Dr. Pilch, along with other state Superintendents of the Year, was honored at the AASA Superintendents Association National Conference in New Orleans in March. She has also been asked to speak at several other state and national conferences and events as the Colorado Superintendent of the Year.



"This is not just a recognition for me, but it is a recognition for all of our staff and the community," Dr. Pilch said. "We have all come together to ensure our students in Greeley and Evans have excellent instruction and opportunities to achieve their education and career goals. This is recognition that we are doing the right work in District 6. I am humbled and grateful for this honor."



# D6 Graduation Rates Continue to

# RISE

In January, the Colorado Department of Education released 2024 statewide graduation rates for school districts. For Greeley-Evans School District 6, the announcement was a huge celebration: The on-time graduation rate for District 6 jumped by nearly 4 percentage points over last year, exceeding the state graduation rate.

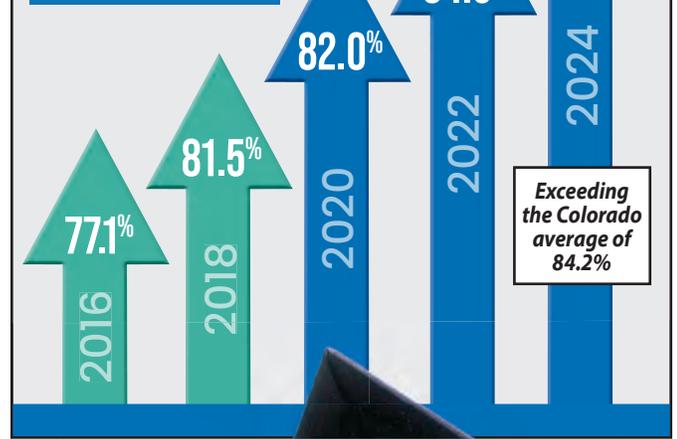
The on-time graduation rate for District 6 is 87.3 percent, up from 83.7 percent in 2023, and exceeding the state average of 84.2 percent. A total of 1,465 students graduated from District 6 schools in 2024, up from 1,372 in 2023.

In 2015, the District 6 on-time graduation rate was 76.9 percent. Since then, District 6 has implemented two strategic plans that make personalized learning, college and career readiness and high school graduation a top priority.

Focusing on ninth grade student success, engaging students in extracurricular activities, making sure students have the academic and social/emotional supports they need, and having students engaged in career pathways are just some of the work District 6 schools are engaged in to ensure students graduate high school ready for their future.

District 6 on-time graduation rate has exceeded the state average for the past

**5 YEARS**



## Here are a few of the highlights from this year's District 6 graduation data:

- ✓ District 6 on-time graduation rates exceeded the state average in almost all categories, including white students (91.9 percent versus 89.1 percent), Hispanic or Latino students (86.2 percent versus 77.3 percent) and black students (83.8 percent versus 78.3 percent).
- ✓ Jefferson High School and the Greeley-Evans Alternative Program, both offering alternative high school experiences to students who are behind on credits or not thriving at traditional high schools, saw an increase of nearly 12 percentage points in the number of students graduating on time.
- ✓ The percentage of students with disabilities who graduate on time went up more than 5 percentage points over last year.
- ✓ The percentage of District 6 students who live in economically disadvantaged households and who graduate on time is 85.9 percent, well over the state average of 76.4 percent.



# Prestigious Scholarships Awarded to District 6 Students



Natalie Chairez Salazar,  
Greeley Central High School Senior

A Greeley Central High School student has received the prestigious Boettcher Scholarship, and two other District 6 students have been named Daniels Fund Scholars.

Natalie Chairez-Salazar was named a Boettcher Scholar in April. She is the second person in her family to receive this full-ride scholarship: Her brother, Yahir Chairez-Salazar, received a Boettcher scholarship in 2022 and is attending the Colorado School of Mines in Golden.

“It was so heartwarming that I was chosen for the Boettcher,” Natalie said. “It relieved so much stress from me, not having to worry about how I was going to pay for college. There was finally a light at the end of the tunnel.”

Boettcher Scholars receive a fixed amount of \$20,000 per year for four years to use at a Colorado institution of higher education. Boettcher Scholars can also qualify for additional tuition reimbursements from the college or university they attend, as

well as educational enrichment grants and international education grants. Since 1952, the Boettcher Foundation has awarded more than \$115 million in scholarships.

Anastasia Rodriguez, a senior at Greeley West High School, and Levi Carlson, a senior at University High School, have been named Daniels Scholars for 2025. Daniels Scholars receive up to \$100,000 over four years toward their undergraduate degree, depending on financial need. Daniels Scholars may use their scholarship at any accredited non-profit college or university anywhere in the United States. Students are selected for their strength of character, leadership potential, commitment to serving the community and academic potential.

More than 2,000 students applied for Daniels Scholarships this year. The foundation awarded 209 scholarships in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

## Board President Recipient of the McGuffey Award

Greeley-Evans School District 6 Board of Education President Michael Mathews received the McGuffey Award from the Colorado Association of School Boards in 2024.

The CASB McGuffey Award honors board members who bring committed and passionate service to their board work. Among other attributes, the award goes to board members who demonstrate a focus on serving all children, working for the community and going above and beyond to serve their school district.

Board Vice President Natalie Mash said the Board nominated Mathews for his ability to “lead with grace and collaboration.” Mash cited Mr. Mathews’ work on the Mill Levy Override and Bond elections, leading the revamping of the District 6 Strategic Plan Innovation2030,

supporting the change in the School Finance Act before the Colorado Legislature in 2024, leading during the pandemic and managing the boardroom during some challenging times.

Mathews said it has been a privilege to serve District 6. He said he has enjoyed watching the district change and grow over the years.

“To be part of this time in District 6, I feel very fortunate,” Mathews said.

Mathews was elected to the Board of Education in 2017, and will complete his second and final term this November. He served as Board president for six years, and resigned from this leadership position in March, so he can help in the transition for newly-elected Board President Mash.



Michael Mathews,  
Board of Education President  
from December 2018–March 2025



# NORTHRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL UNIFIED BOWLING State Champions



Jillian Jensen practices bowling “every single day.” She even works at a bowling alley when she’s not in school.

For Jillian, bowling is a huge part of her life. And her passion is a big reason why the Northridge High School Unified Bowling Team took the state championship this year.

“I’ve wanted to win since I was a freshman,” said Jillian, a senior at Northridge. “It’s fun.”

Unified sports provide an opportunity for students with intellectual or physical disabilities to be paired on teams with students from the general population. Many Unified sports teams compete throughout the school year. Unified Bowling has five team members and is a Colorado High School Activities Association sanctioned sport.

Having fun is a huge theme for the Northridge championship team. They joke around like siblings, teasing each other and laughing whenever they are together.

In addition to Jillian, the team included junior Ethan Wahlmeier, senior Jordan Fernandez, junior Annabelle Cox and senior David Rivera.

“I knew we had a chance of winning,” David said. “We were able to get through and have fun. We did our best and ended up winning.”

Coaches Aimee Anderson, special education teacher, and Amy Wahlmeier, paraprofessional, said the Northridge group beat out 27 other teams to take the championship.

And what is it that makes Northridge Unified Bowling a winning team?

“I think the most important thing is their relationships,” Coach Anderson said. “They love each other like brothers and sisters. They develop friendships that maybe otherwise wouldn’t have happened.”

# Sidney Cerise

## Presidential Award for Excellence

Sidney Cerise, a math educator at Early College Academy in Greeley-Evans School District 6, won the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching this year. She is one of 336 teachers nationwide to receive this honor.

"I am deeply honored to receive this award, as it serves as a reminder of the hard work, dedication, and passion that drives me every day in the classroom," Cerise said. "What motivates me is the opportunity to make a positive impact on my students' lives by helping them build confidence, critical thinking skills and a love for math that will serve them for years to come. This recognition is truly a reflection of the collective effort of my students, colleagues and the entire district community!"

Established in 1983, PAEMST is the highest award K-12 math and science teachers can receive from the U.S. government. Nominees complete a rigorous application process to demonstrate deep content knowledge and an ability to adapt to a broad range of learners and teaching environments.

## Bella Romero Academy Middle School Wrestler Wins Colorado State Competition



Dulce Cornejo first heard of wrestling when she was in the fifth grade. With the sport now open to female competitors, she was interested but still too young to compete. Dulce asked her older sister to try the sport instead and report back to her. Her sister encouraged Dulce to join her middle school team at Bella Romero Academy as a sixth grader.

That first year, Dulce won the wrestling regional competition. Between her sixth and seventh grade year, she participated in as many wrestling camps as she could in order to improve. This year, as a seventh-grader at Bella Romero, she won the state championship.

"I get nervous but I try to shake it off," said the state champ. "When I go to the mat, everything is clear. I don't think about anything else. I'm focused."

Dulce said she is trying to encourage other girls to join wrestling teams.

"It's very hard at first, but if you keep practicing, then you will get there."

Dulce plans to continue wrestling through high school and even hopes to compete in college. She knows if she works hard, she can achieve her wrestling dreams.

"I feel really proud of myself because I really did improve during the year," she said.

# Brentwood named Trailblazers School to Watch!

For the third time, Brentwood Middle School has been named a 2025 Colorado Trailblazer Schools to Watch!, making it one of five schools in Colorado to receive the prestigious designation.

The Colorado Association of Middle Level Education selects the honorees. Brentwood Middle School is one of 100-plus schools that will be recognized nationwide at the National Schools to Watch Conference in June 2025 in Washington, D.C. A team from Brentwood has been asked to present at the national conference on their best practices for student engagement and achievement.

"The leadership and staff at Brentwood have done incredible work to engage students and families, focus on student achievement and create a culture of learning," said Superintendent Dr. Deirdre Pilch. "We are proud of Brentwood staff and students. They are truly deserving of this honor."

Selection for this honor is based on a written application that requires schools to show how they met the criteria developed by the association. State teams organized by the Colorado Schools to Watch program conduct site visits in order to affirm that they have met the rigorous requirements of the award. These teams observe classrooms; interview administrators, teachers and parents; and review achievement data, suspension rates, instructional quality and student work.

Schools are recognized for a three-year period, and at the end of three years must repeat the process in order to be redesignated. This is the second time Brentwood has been redesignated as Trailblazer honoree and third time to receive the honor.

"Being honored as a School to Watch! really is a testament to the amazing community we have at Brentwood. Our staff works tirelessly to ensure our students have engaging academic experiences in an environment where they can be their authentic selves," said Brentwood Principal Nicole Petersen. "Through this recognition, we are also able to support other schools across the state as they look for promising practices that truly work for adolescent learners."

## DISTRICT 6 AP SCHOLARS

In 2024, 166 Greeley-Evans School District 6 students earned the prestigious AP Scholars award for their outstanding performance on 2023 Advanced Placement tests, more than any other previous year.

The College Board's Advanced Placement program offers students the opportunity to take challenging college-level courses and exams while in high school. District 6 offers more than 20 Advanced Placement courses to high school students. Students who score well on AP exams are eligible to receive college credit, advanced placement in college, or both at more than 3,200 colleges and universities across the United States.

Greeley Central High School led among District 6 high schools with 67 AP Scholars this year, including one student who earned an AP International Diploma, four students who earned AP Seminar and Research Certificates and four students who earned AP Capstone Diplomas. Greeley West High School, which also has the International Baccalaureate program, had 41 AP Scholars this year. And Northridge High School had 39 AP Scholars, including 14 who received AP Seminar and Research Certificates and three who earned AP Capstone Diplomas.



**166**

STUDENTS EARNED  
THE PRESTIGIOUS  
AP SCHOLARS  
AWARD

**20**

ADVANCED  
PLACEMENT COURSES  
ARE OFFERED TO  
D6 HIGH SCHOOL  
STUDENTS

# CAREER AND COLLEGE

## Readiness

**14** CAREER-DRIVEN ACADEMIES ARE OFFERED AT D6 HIGH SCHOOLS AND THE CTE CENTER



Advanced Manufacturing Academy



Agriculture Academy



Arts Academy



Business Academy



Construction Academy



Cosmetology Academy



Human Services and Education Academy



Health Services Academy



Hospitality Academy



Leadership Academy



Public Safety Academy



Scholastic Academy



STEM Academy (IT & Engineering)



Welding Academy

## Preparing Today for Tomorrow

Exploring careers, taking college courses in high school, earning an industry certificate, completing an apprenticeship or internship: Students in Greeley-Evans School District 6 have many opportunities to explore careers and find their path while in high school.

Through 29 Career Pathways in 14 different Career Academies in high schools and the Career and Technical Education Center, students are getting a head start on college and career before they graduate high school. Schools also partner with businesses and industries to provide guest speakers and job shadowing opportunities for students.

From agriculture to arts, cosmetology to construction, students can explore a multitude of careers in District 6. To learn more about career pathways, visit: [www.greeleyschools.org/families/career-college-readiness](http://www.greeleyschools.org/families/career-college-readiness).

Here are just a few of the opportunities students in District 6 are participating in:

- ✓ **More than 170 students** participated in paid summer internships in 2024.
- ✓ **3,720 students** are enrolled in a career pathway program.
- ✓ **63 percent of students** at the Career and Technical Education Center have earned an industry certificate.
- ✓ **More than 50 percent of high school students** are taking college classes for free from Aims Community College, the University of Northern Colorado and other higher education partners.

## District 6 Portrait of a Graduate Profile

When graduates leave Greeley-Evans School District 6, what skills should they have? Yes, they need to know how to read and write, understand history and science, and be able to solve math problems.

But what are the cognitive, personal and interpersonal skills a graduate should have in order to be prepared for their career, college and beyond?

This year, the district has collected feedback through surveys, meetings and conversations with students, families and community members, asking what skills our graduates need to have in order to be successful. That information is being used to develop the

Portrait of a Graduate - a tool District 6 will use to guide teaching and learning from kindergarten through graduation that will establish a clear vision of what our graduates will be able to do once they leave District 6.

Some of the themes that are emerging from this feedback show that graduates need to be good communicators and problem solvers, need to be curious and continuous learners and be contributing members of the community.

Stay tuned next year as District 6 rolls out the Portrait of a Graduate and a plan to ensure our students have all the skills they need to be successful and productive citizens.





My experience in the Health Science Academy has given me many opportunities including my CNA courses and job shadowing experience. This has contributed to my future plans of getting a bachelor's degree in nursing and continuing to medical school to become a family physician. Every class and teacher at Greeley Central has helped me get to a point of feeling confident in my future plans in the healthcare field.

~ Sabrina Ruiz-Horsman, Greeley Central High School



**77%**  
OF DISTRICT 6 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE ENROLLED IN A CAREER PATHWAY



**90%**  
OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE HEALTH SCIENCE PROGRAM PASSED THE CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT CERTIFICATION



**168**  
DISTRICT 6 STUDENTS HAVE EARNED AN INDUSTRY CERTIFICATE



**1,219**  
STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT WITH OVER 4,000 INDIVIDUAL COLLEGE COURSES TAKEN BY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 2024-2025



# Career Exploration in Greeley-Evans School District 6 now has Wheels

The D6 Discovery Lab travels to K-8 and middle schools throughout District 6 to help students learn more about Career Pathway offerings at high schools and possible careers they may want to explore. With all the pathway choices in District 6 - from culinary arts to welding - the choices may seem overwhelming to younger students.

The Discovery Lab hosts opportunities for students to explore welding, healthcare, cosmetology, construction, advanced manufacturing and information technology with the ability to expand to other pathways including agriculture, culinary arts and electrical.

"I thought that it was really cool, trying out the welding, especially. I've been interested in that and it's cool to have some hands-on experience with it," said Grant Blakely, an eighth grade student at Tointon Academy of Pre-Engineering. "I think that it was awesome to be able to understand how it works now. I understand what's happening a lot better."

Paid for primarily through a grant from the Perkins Collaborative Resource Network and the Weld Trust, the Discovery Lab is making tracks and impressing young students all over District 6.

"You get to learn CPR! I've always wanted to learn CPR for my own purposes and to help people," said Aaron Thompson, also an eighth grade student at Tointon Academy. "And it was fun to see where the organs are with the skeletons."



## D6 Classified Employee of the Year



Liz Stockham, a specialist for Nutrition Services who has organized and facilitated the Food Pantry Program for all Greeley-Evans School District 6 schools, was named the Classified Employee of the Year at the Board of Education meeting in March.

The District 6 Classified Council sponsors the Classified Employee of the Year award annually. A committee reviews

all the nominations and recommends the winner. This year, in addition to Stockham, there were two other finalists honored: Anna Lopez, a paraprofessional at Chappelow Arts Magnet K-8 and Edgar Chaparro, master painter for the Facilities Department.

Liz was cited for her commitment to ensuring students are fed, even outside school hours.



"Her kindness, dedication and proactive problem-solving have created a culture of care and support that extends far beyond the pantry doors," read the award nomination, submitted by Kara Sample, assistant director of Nutrition Services, "Her efforts not only nourish students physically, but also provides them with stability, a sense of security and supports their academic success."

Through its partnership with the Success Foundation Serving Greeley-Evans Schools, 32 schools in District 6 have a food pantry that students and families can access to provide supplemental food for their homes. Pantries provide perishable and nonperishable food free of charge and are stocked through donations of money and food, as well as with leftovers from school kitchens.



# District 6 Safety and Security

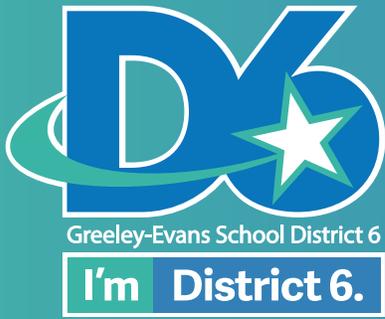
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Keeping students and staff safe at schools is always the first priority in Greeley-Evans School District 6.  
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The Department of Safety and Security has three full-time administrative staff who are former police officers, as well as three professionals who work with schools to ensure safety protocols are in place and enforced every day. The department also employs 25 campus monitors who provide additional safety and security support to schools. The City of Greeley and Evans, as well as the Weld County Sheriff's Office, have assigned School Resource Officers to respond to schools, an essential partnership in keeping schools safe.

This year, the Department of Safety and Security has worked to implement school-specific emergency plans. These plans are tailored to each school. The district has trained school leadership in Incident Command Systems (ICS). ICS is a standardized, on-scene incident management concept that provides a common organizational structure for managing emergency responses, allowing multiple agencies to work together effectively.

Here are some highlights of what we are doing to enhance Safety and Security in District 6:

- » Greeley-Evans School District 6 was awarded a \$509,000 grant in March 2024 to build an incident response command center to enhance district-wide security and crisis response. The Command Center was completed in January 2025. The center is staffed with two trained Emergency Operations Center Specialists who monitor cameras at district schools, assist in emergencies and provide security support to school staff.
- » Ongoing training and running drills for students and staff is essential to ensure a safe response if a real emergency occurs. Prevention is emphasized. Students are given tools to report unsafe conditions. As part of the security plan, student district-issued computer use and social media are monitored to address bullying, unsafe practices, crime and other incidents that could threaten student or staff safety.
- » The district was awarded a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance to fund a Threat Assessment Coordinator and Restorative Practices Coordinator. The primary role of the Threat Assessment Coordinator is to identify, assess and respond to potential threats to school safety, including threats made by students, staff or others. The Restorative Practices Coordinator is responsible for implementing and overseeing restorative justice practices within the district. Rather than punishment, the goal is to foster a positive school climate by promoting conflict resolution, repairing harm and building strong relationships among students, staff and the school community.



In Greeley-Evans School District 6, we know we can't educate and care for nearly 23,000 students without help.

That is why partnerships are so important to us. We strongly value partnering with our families, businesses, community organizations, educational institutions, and local, state and national governmental entities. It is through these partnerships that we build relationships that support our students' learning and create opportunities for them to reach their goals.

Strengthening all these partnerships is an important pillar in our Innovation2030 strategic plan. Here are some of the ways we are working to ensure existing partnerships are strong and endure, to find ways to create new partnerships and that District 6 finds ways to give back to the community that has shown us such strong support.

## Giving Back to Our Communities!



Greeley-Evans School District 6 has benefited greatly from partnerships and community support over the years. Now, we are working on a way to give back to the community that has given so much to our students, staff and families.

D6 Gives Back is a program that allows District 6 employees to volunteer up to eight hours per year on contract time with local non-profit organizations. A pilot program this year with just administrative employees was successful. Now, the hope is to expand this offering to other employee groups.

While it might be difficult for school-based employees to leave for volunteer work during their contract time, some schools have come up with creative solutions, such as creating hygiene kits for homeless families on their lunch break or spending time on other philanthropic projects during the day.

District 6 also encourages all its employees to give back to the community during their non-work hours, and many do volunteer throughout the community. Volunteering during the work day just gives us one more opportunity to help many of the organizations that do so much for our community.

 To learn more about D6 Gives Back, visit [www.greeleyschools.org/D6GivesBack](http://www.greeleyschools.org/D6GivesBack)



## Family Listening Sessions

Creating productive and trusting relationships with the families we serve is essential to student success. Having family members engaged in their child's education and having staff engaged with families creates a two-way partnership that supports good outcomes for students.

District 6 hosted three Family Listening Sessions this year. Superintendent Dr. Deirdre Pilch, district administrators, school principals, staff from the District 6 Family Center and parent advocates from schools across the district met twice with families from Title 1 Schools (our highest poverty schools) and once with families from other schools.

Families were asked to give feedback on three questions:

- What are your hopes and dreams for your student(s)?
- What does a welcoming school look like to you?
- What could schools do to better meet your and your students' needs?

The feedback showed that parents and guardians care deeply about their students' academic achievement, but also about their safety and mental well-being. Families had positive feedback about how their school(s) respond to questions and issues, and how they

support students. Family members want to be valued at their child's school and they want better and more reciprocal relationships with school staff. They love getting communication from their school(s). They want their child to have every chance to be successful.

This feedback will help District 6 better support students and families going forward. District 6 will continue listening to and engaging with parents.



# The Gift of Music in District 6

The Success Foundation Serving Greeley-Evans Schools is working hard this year to ensure that every student who is interested in music has a brand new instrument.

We know that students engaged in activities such as music have a much richer, more successful academic experience. They are more likely to graduate, attend school regularly and have fewer behavioral problems.

However, many instruments being played in District 6 middle and high school music programs have been used for years, even decades, by students. Some have been repaired multiple times and repurposed beyond their normal life span. Some are damaged beyond full repair. And renting or buying an instrument just isn't financially feasible for some students and families.

The goal of The Success Foundation is to raise \$620,000 over two years to ensure that students in music programs in grades 6-12 have a new instrument to play. This program will help give EVERY interested student the opportunity to pursue their interest in music.

If you would like to support this program, please visit [www.d6successfoundation.org/district-6-music](http://www.d6successfoundation.org/district-6-music).



## Community Council on Education

The Community Council on Education, hosted by the Greeley Chamber of Commerce, is an organization made up of representatives from area businesses and industry, governmental entities, non-profit organizations, higher education and Greeley-Evans School District 6. This Council first started meeting more than a decade ago, but took a hiatus during the pandemic. Within the past two years, the Community Council on Education has reconvened and is now meeting monthly.

The mission of the Council is to connect businesses and educational institutions, facilitate business/education partnerships and to improve student outcomes and opportunities by supporting, advising, communicating and advocating for students, staff and schools at all educational levels in Greeley and Evans.

District 6 Superintendent Dr. Deirdre Pilch said this connection to local employers is essential to further the work of preparing students for college, careers and beyond.

"It is important for us to know what our local employers need from their educational partners, from preschool through graduate school," Dr. Pilch said. "We are interconnected in so many ways. These relationships and partnerships are vital to not only the success of our students, but to the success of our entire community."

Some of the topics discussed at Community Council on Education meetings include internships and apprenticeships, the skills students need to be workforce ready and the continuum of educational opportunities in northern Colorado.

# WE ARE HIRING!

JOIN OUR TEAM



District 6 is currently hiring for the 2025-2026 school year! We have positions available in all areas, including:

- Teachers
- Skilled Trades
- Substitutes
- Support Staff



Please visit [www.greeleyschools.org/D6jobs](http://www.greeleyschools.org/D6jobs) for specific openings or reach out to Human Resources at 970-348-6070



GREELEY-EVANS SCHOOL DISTRICT 6

## SCHOOL KICKOFF

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Mark Your Calendar!



The annual School Kickoff Community Celebration will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, August 2, at Island Grove Event Center.

This annual event draws thousands of students and families every year. With free backpacks filled with school supplies, reduced-cost sports physicals, immunizations, fun activities and more than 60 vendors, this is truly a one-stop shop to get prepared for the new school year!

All expenses for this event are paid for through sponsorships. Because of rising costs of backpacks and school supplies, we are still looking for businesses and individuals who would like to sponsor this event. To maximize our buying power, District 6 only accepts monetary donations. To donate or learn more about the event, visit [www.greeleyschools.org/kickoff](http://www.greeleyschools.org/kickoff).

# Change and Challenges: What's Next?

Public school districts in Colorado and throughout the nation have faced some unique challenges this year.

At the state level, funding for public schools was heavily debated in the Colorado Legislature as lawmakers worked to cut more than \$1.2 billion from the state budget. Ultimately, funding was maintained for public education. However, because of the higher costs of goods and materials, the higher costs of health benefits and the district's required contributions to the Public Employees Retirement Association, as well as a reduction in the amount of funding District 6 is collecting on its Mill Levy Override due to the state freezing residential property tax rates, District 6 saw about \$7 million less in funding this year.

This resulted in cuts that included:

- Three district-level administrative positions, one administrative assistant and one IT technician
- Dean positions at large K-8 schools and middle schools
- One assistant principal at a large K-8
- Delay in replacing technical equipment for staff
- Elimination of some consulting contracts
- Closing of Jefferson Junior High School, a program that served a small number of students grades 7-9. These students will be served by other K-8, middle and high schools, as well as the District 6 Online Academy and will be given additional support to be successful.

"It is very hard to make cuts like this without impacting schools," said Superintendent Dr. Deirdre Pilch.

Funding from the national level is also still in question, and answers are not completely clear. The current federal administration has vowed to close the U.S. Department of Education. District 6 receives about \$30 million annually in federal grants, most of that coming through Title 1, which funds schools with a large number of students living in poverty, and IDEA, which provides dollars for special education students.

While there have been some assurances that these dollars won't be cut, there is a request from the U.S. Department of Education to sign a certification vowing to be in compliance with certain federal laws as those laws are being interpreted by the current administration or risk having federal funding frozen. The Colorado Commissioner of Education has said she will not sign the certification as the state is already compelled to follow federal law. It is still not clear how this might impact public schools in the coming months.

District 6 and state officials continue to monitor the national situation and hope to receive more clarity and direction soon.



## ELECTION IN NOVEMBER

This November, there will be an election for the Board of Education. Four seats are up for election. Former Board President Michael Mathews is term-limited and will go off the Board after serving two four-year terms. Seats for current Board members Kyle Bentley, Rob Norwood and Taylor Sullivan will also be up for election.

Several people have already announced their candidacy for these open positions. The new Board members will be selected during the general election on November 4, 2025.



## UPCOMING 2025-2026

### DISTRICT 6 CALENDAR of EVENTS

- AUG 11** Grades 1-12: Students' First Day of School
- AUG 14** Kindergarten: Students' First Day of School
- NOV 24-28** Thanksgiving Break  
*No school for students*
- DEC 19- JAN 5** Winter Break  
*No school for students*
- MAR 16-20** Spring Break  
*No school for students*

#### NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

*All non-charter District 6 schools are closed for teacher professional development*

- September 22, 2025
- October 10, 2025
- November 3, 2025
- February 2, 2026
- March 6, 2026
- April 3, 2026

#### HOLIDAYS

*All public District 6 schools are closed*

- September 1, 2025
- January 19, 2026
- February 16, 2026

Please visit [www.greeleyschools.org](http://www.greeleyschools.org) for updates to the calendar!



In compliance with Titles VI & VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, and Colorado law, Weld County School District 6, Greeley, Colorado, does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, ancestry, gender identity, creed, age, marital status, sexual orientation, genetic information, disability or need for special education services in admissions, access to treatment, or employment in educational programs or activities which it operates. Greeley-Evans School District 6 will take appropriate steps to ensure that a lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in vocational education programs.

Complaint procedures have been established for students, parents, employees, and members of the public. The following person(s) have been identified as the compliance officer for the district employees and members of the public.

Title IX Coordinator and Compliance Officer, Jim Donahue  
1025 Ninth Avenue, Greeley, CO 80631  
Phone: 970-348-6070  
Email: jdonahue@greeleyschools.org

Complaints regarding violations of Title VI (race, national origin), Title IX (sex/gender), Section 504/ADA (handicap or disability), may be filed directly with the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, 1244 North Speer Boulevard, Suite 310, Denver, Colorado, 80204. Complaints regarding violations of Title VII (employment) and the ADEA (prohibiting age discrimination in employment) may be filed directly with the Federal Office of Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 303 E. 17th Avenue, Suite 510, Denver, Colorado, 80202, or the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, 1560 Broadway, Suite 1050, Denver, Colorado, 80202.

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