

2026 Greeley-Evans School District 6

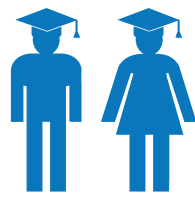
# REPORT to the COMMUNITY



Greeley-Evans School District 6

I'm District 6.

# DISTRICT 6 BY THE NUMBERS



**22,778**

TOTAL PK-12 STUDENT  
MEMBERSHIP AS OF  
OCTOBER 2025



**14<sup>th</sup>**  
LARGEST SCHOOL  
DISTRICT IN THE  
STATE OF COLORADO

**3,400**

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



**90.1%**

OF OUR STUDENTS  
GRADUATE ON TIME  
*Above the state average of 85.6 percent*



**29**  
CAREER PATHWAYS  
ACROSS DISTRICT 6



**254**

STUDENTS EARNED  
THE PRESTIGIOUS AP  
SCHOLARS AWARD

**80+**

DIFFERENT LANGUAGES  
ARE SPOKEN BY  
STUDENTS IN DISTRICT 6

MORE THAN  
**1,200**

District 6 students are enrolled in courses at AIMS Community College, the University of Northern Colorado, and other colleges.



Greeley-Evans School District 6  
**I'm District 6.**

## BOARD OF EDUCATION



Doran  
Azari,  
Director



Brenda  
Campos-Spitze,  
Director



Robyn  
Roggy,  
Director



Natalie  
Mash,  
President



Kyle  
Bentley,  
Vice President



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Edmunds,  
Director



Deana  
Lemos-Garcia,  
Director

Message from our  
**DISTRICT 6  
LEADERSHIP**



As we reflect on this past year, the word that continues to rise to the surface is gratitude. It is our honor to share the Report to the Community, but more importantly, it is to say, "THANK YOU." In Greeley-Evans School District 6, we know that we not only serve a community; we are part of one. The success of our students is a direct reflection of the incredible support we receive from our families, local businesses, and our civic partners.

We have so much to celebrate together. Our collective hard work has led us to a historic milestone, achieving an all-time high graduation rate exceeding 90 percent. This is not just a number – it represents hundreds of individual success stories and bright futures for our students. This excellence is felt across our school sites, with 18 schools earning the "performance rating," the highest designation from the Colorado Department of Education. And of course, our pride reached new heights this year as we celebrated our very own Stephen Paulson, a social studies and AVID teacher at Greeley Central High School, as the Colorado Teacher of the Year. His recognition is a powerful reminder of the extraordinary educators in District 6 who inspire, support, and guide students every single day.

These achievements are made possible because you have chosen to invest in our children. We are deeply grateful for the community trust in renewing the Mill Levy Override and for your continued support as we complete the first phase of bond projects throughout District 6. These investments allow us to provide the safe and modern facilities our students deserve.

Beyond the classroom walls, we are fully focused on what comes next. Through our expanding career pathways, we are bridging the gap between graduation and the workforce. We are ensuring our students have clear and successful routes into our local economy. Our goal is simple: to prepare our students for a future where they can give back to the very community that has supported them through their journey with District 6.

We are proud of all that District 6 has accomplished this past year, and we are ready to set our sights on even higher goals for the 2026-2027 school year. Thank you for taking the time to read the stories and progress shared within this annual report. We are grateful for you and honored to serve the children of our community.

Natalie Mash  
President, Board of Education

Deirdre Pilch, EdD  
Superintendent of Schools



Greeley-Evans School District 6 continues to make progress toward the goals outlined in our strategic plan, Innovation2030.

Guided by four key priorities – Student Learning and Achievement, Climate and Culture, Operational and Organizational Effectiveness, and Strengthening Partnerships – teams across the district are actively implementing targeted action plans. These efforts focus on enhancing student learning, promoting positive behavior, strengthening safety and security, and creating meaningful opportunities for students and staff to engage in community service.

Each priority area includes specific goals, objectives, outcomes, and action steps designed to improve student achievement, expand learning opportunities, and strengthen relationships with families and the community. Notably, several goals have already been reached ahead of schedule, including achieving a graduation rate above 90 percent.

Innovation2030 was developed collaboratively with input from District 6 staff, students, parents, and community members.



## 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 & 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.



Greeley-Evans School District 6

**I'm District 6.**

### STUDENT LEARNING & ACHIEVEMENT



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

### STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS



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

### OPERATIONAL & ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS



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

### CLIMATE & CULTURE



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

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

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



**Never in the history of Greeley-Evans School District 6 has there been such a year of honors and recognition for our staff and students.**

From the 2025 Superintendent of the Year to the 2026 Colorado Teacher of the Year, High School Counselor of the Year, and Middle Level Principal of the Year, District 6 has been recognized at the state and national level for its excellent staff, students, schools, academic achievement, and programs.

We are proud of all the achievements of our District 6 family and recognize the excellent work being done to serve the students and families of Greeley and Evans.

## Prestigious Scholarships Awarded to District 6 Students

A Greeley West High School student is one of 50 students in the state of Colorado to receive the prestigious Boettcher Scholarship. Sofia Vasquez was named a Boettcher Scholar in April.

The journey to the scholarship began in a public library. Sofia recalls spending hours of her childhood with her father at the local library, igniting a passion for social justice. In 2nd grade, she organized her first fundraiser for a classmate who was experiencing difficult times. Her biggest donor was JBS, who helped supply bicycles, clothes, shoes, and a holiday dinner for her classmate's family of six.

"I loved giving her a sense of hope during a hopeless time in her life. I didn't know it at the time, but that was the beginning of organizing people, bringing people together," Sofia said.

When a fire destroyed her home during her freshman year, Sofia experienced devastating material and emotional loss. She lived through unstable housing and relied on the generosity of the community and organizations like the Red Cross for basic necessities. The fire sparked The Supply Box Initiative.

"My nonprofit reflects the fire and my heart. It's my way of giving back to my community."

The Supply Box Initiative provides hygiene products, clothing, shoes, feminine products, and backpacks to the homeless population. Sofia and her mother personally give these products to the homeless population. Currently, the organization is undergoing the process of formally becoming a 501c3.

Sofia's post-secondary education plans include studying Socio-Legal Studies at either the University of Denver or the University of Colorado. After college, she hopes to pursue law and run for Congress, where she plans to make an even greater impact.

"As a first generation Latina, it means a lot to win the Boettcher. My mom's side came from the Dominican Republic, and my dad's side came from Mexico. This is literally what they came here for. They came here for me to have this opportunity to do great things," Sofia said.

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. Since 1952, the Boettcher Foundation has awarded over \$120 million in scholarships. More than 2,000 students apply for the distinguished scholarship every year.

### DANIELS FUND®

**Nadia Adam** of Greeley West High School, along with **Bryan Perez-Ramos** and **Palmer Nemec** of Greeley Central High School, have received the prestigious Daniels Fund Scholarship. 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.

Since 2000, the Fund has invested nearly \$440 million in scholarship programs, including scholarships awarded to more than 5,600 Daniels Scholars. This year, the foundation awarded 205 scholarships in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.



# Excellence in School Counseling Recognized at Greeley Central High School

As a graduate of Greeley Central High School, Claudia Koesler knows how important it is for students to feel welcome and included. She knows the impact of supporting students emotionally and academically, and she knows a good high school counselor can make a huge difference in the success of students.

The Colorado School Counselor Association (CSCA) recognized Koesler as the Colorado High School Counselor of the Year during a surprise announcement at Greeley Central High School in September 2025.

Koesler has worked in District 6 for the past 9 years. In her nomination, colleagues praised Koesler as a passionate advocate for the counseling profession and someone who works tirelessly to elevate the role of counselors in education while ensuring every student has the support they need to succeed.

"I feel like I was born to do this, to help inspire our kids in Greeley," Koesler said.

Winners of the CSCA School Counselor of the Year Award are also nominated for the national American School Counselor Association (ASCA) School Counselor of the Year Award.



# Dr. Deirdre Pilch Reflects on Time as Colorado's Superintendent of the Year for 2025

As the 2025-2026 academic year draws to a close, so does Dr. Deirdre Pilch's tenure as Colorado Superintendent of the Year.

Dr. Pilch officially received the honor last March at the 2025 AASA National Conference on Education in New Orleans. As her tenure continued throughout 2025, Dr. Pilch appreciated the doors that opened for her and for District 6 as a result of that title.

"Serving as Superintendent of the Year really gave us access in ways we didn't have before, in terms of sharing our story on a national stage," Dr. Pilch said. "It also confirmed for me what I've known for a long time: our dedicated educators and our hard-working students are accomplishing remarkable things despite the tremendous challenges faced by our district and our families."



As Superintendent of the Year, Dr. Pilch had the opportunity to attend conferences and other events that brought together recipients of the award from all over the country, facilitating conversations that brought about new ideas, new perspectives, and new approaches to solving problems faced by public education nationwide.

"Our poverty rate in this district is over 70 percent, so to get to tell the stories of kids who are beating the odds and how we are able to use precious resources to influence our graduation rate is really special," Dr. Pilch said. "Given the right support and people who believe in them, students can accomplish so much."

Among those accomplishments, District 6's graduation rate for 2025 was over 90 percent, and every student made a well-developed plan for their lives after high school. "That's unprecedented in a school district that serves the same type of demographic that we serve," Dr. Pilch said.

The year also underscored challenges faced by institutes of public education all over the U.S., including budget cuts and funding inequities, teacher shortages and declining enrollment. But in her role as Superintendent of the Year, Dr. Pilch and other superintendents in Colorado had the ear of state legislators during discussions about how to navigate funding.

"We all worked very hard to pass the 2025 Colorado School Finance Act," she said. "For years, we've been working to move the needle on equity, and this legislation finally begins to recognize the actual costs of educating our students. Being at the table to ensure the voice of District 6 was heard in those funding conversations was not just a professional highlight, it was a necessity for our community."

Mostly, Dr. Pilch says, the year has once again highlighted how grateful she feels to work with the educators, students, and families she has served for the past 11 years in District 6.

"We have such deeply dedicated educators in this district who absolutely understand the importance of making students college-ready," she said. "Everybody understands their role and why they matter to the vision we have for District 6. It's a true privilege to work with such talented and dedicated people."



## Stephen Paulson named the 2026 Colorado Teacher of the Year

When Stephen Paulson was officially named the 2026 Colorado Teacher of the Year at an assembly at Greeley Central High School on October 2, 2025, he shook his head, stood up and walked to the center of the gymnasium floor, and said, "I love this school. I love our colors. I love all of you!"

The crowd of students, staff, and community members erupted in applause.

"This is the first-ever Colorado Teacher of the Year for Greeley-Evans School District 6, and the selection team couldn't have picked a more deserving educator," said District 6 Superintendent Dr. Deirdre Pilch. "Stephen is completely dedicated to the success of his students, and he ensures they all have access to a great education and opportunities beyond the classroom."

To earn this honor, Paulson competed against 419 other applicants. He completed four essays, several interviews, and had a site visit to his classroom by officials from the Colorado Department of Education, the Boettcher Foundation, and others.

As the Colorado Teacher of the Year, Paulson represents Colorado educators at several state and national events and conferences. He will participate in local, state, and national interviews, panels, and podcasts throughout 2026. He will also be part of the process to select the 2027 Teacher of the Year.

Paulson said he is proud to be the Colorado Teacher of the Year, not for his own recognition, but for the light it shines on his students, his colleagues, his school, District 6, and the community.

"My students are incredible," Paulson said while speaking to the State Board of Education in November 2025. "My job is to help remove barriers so they can be successful."



### DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ Mr. Paulson's first job was at Baskin Robbins when he was 14, and he also worked in landscaping for years, even during the early part of his teaching career.
- ✓ He originally attended the University of Northern Colorado to study pre-law.
- ✓ In his free time, Mr. Paulson enjoys fishing with his two sons and is an avid sports fan.



# Prairie Heights Middle School Named 2026 Colorado Schools to Watch

For the first time, Prairie Heights Middle School has been named a 2026 Colorado Schools to Watch, making it one of four schools in Colorado to receive the prestigious designation.

The Schools to Watch designation is awarded to middle schools that demonstrate excellence in academic achievement, developmental responsiveness, social equity, and strong organizational structures. The Colorado Association of Middle Level Education selected the honorees, and Prairie Heights Middle School is one of more than 100 schools nationwide that will be recognized at the National Schools to Watch Conference in Washington, D.C. in June 2026.

“Being recognized as a Colorado Schools to Watch is a tremendous honor for Prairie Heights Middle School,” said principal Jessica Cooney. “This award reflects the hard work of our students, the dedication of our staff, and the strong partnerships we’ve built with families and the community.”

Following the application process, trained state review teams conduct rigorous site visits to validate each school’s practices. During these visits, reviewers observe classroom instruction, interview students, staff, administrators, and families, and analyze achievement data, discipline trends, instructional quality, and evidence of student learning.

Designation as a Colorado Schools to Watch is granted for three years. Schools must reapply and participate in another site visit at the end of that term to maintain their status, ensuring a sustained commitment to continuous improvement and excellence.

Currently 20 states participate in the program, and more than 425 schools nationwide have earned this distinction.



## Brentwood’s own earns top state principal honor



As Principal Nicole Petersen walks through the halls of Brentwood Middle School, she calls to students by name, asks how they are doing, or how their basketball game went. She might ask about their sibling, or if they are feeling better after an illness.

Nicole Petersen knows her students. She has created a student-centered culture of learning at Brentwood Middle School. And that’s just one of the reasons she was named the 2026 Colorado Middle Level Principal of the Year.

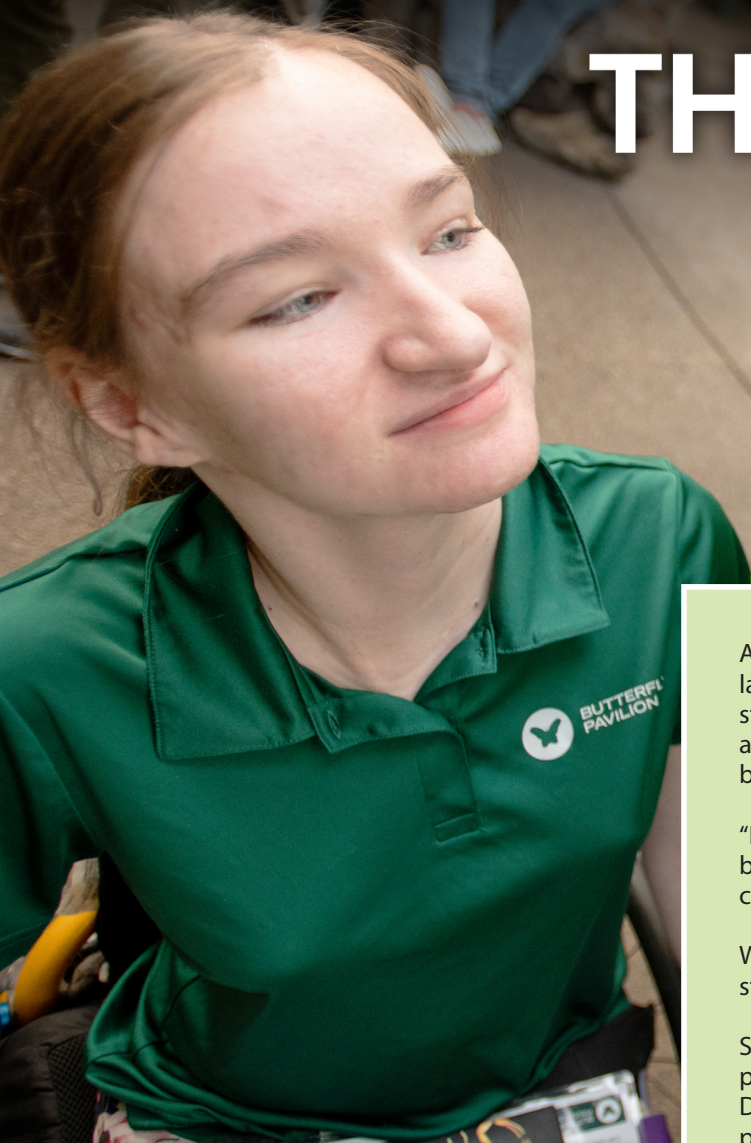
“We believe our success stems from our commitment to truly knowing our students – not just as data points, but as individuals with talents, dreams, and unique needs,” Petersen said. “While we review trend data to inform our instruction, we remain adamant that every data point represents a human being.”

“Ms. Petersen has done such an incredible job of making both students and parents alike feel like their feelings and concerns matter,” said Brentwood parent Amanda Fanjoy. “It feels to me that she constantly has a good pulse on what is happening with all of the students at any given time.”

In December 2025, the Colorado Association of Secondary School Principals (CASSP), a department of the Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE), chose Petersen from a competitive collection of nominees. As the 2026 Colorado Middle-Level Principal of the Year, Petersen will be considered for the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) Principal of the Year award. She will also participate in several events and conferences, both at the state and national levels.

# THE

# Butterfly EFFECT



A blaze of orange flashes by as a monarch butterfly lands on Anya Wild's hand, resting lightly as she steadies it on the wheel of her wheelchair. A smile spreads across her face. Holding as still as she can, she watches closely, barely containing a laugh as she takes in her tiny visitor.

"I've never had one of these land on me," she says calmly as the butterfly begins to crawl up her hand. She gently moves her hand to her knee, careful not to disturb the insect.

Whimsical moments like this are common for Anya as the District 6 student begins her volunteer shift at the Butterfly Pavilion.

Spend just a few minutes with Anya, and you quickly learn she has passion for learning, for sharing, and especially for bugs. A senior in the District 6 Transitions 18–21 Program, Anya has taken the lessons and preparation her teachers provided and applied them directly to her interests. She's combined it all into a volunteer position at the Butterfly Pavilion in Westminster, just west of Denver.

Her first visit to the pavilion was in third grade.

"That was the most butterflies I'd seen in my life, and I was like, 'Oh my gosh, I want to do this!'" she recalls.

Now, she roams the exhibits, speaking with guests and sharing her knowledge and love of the insects that call the pavilion home.

"I think maybe I see myself in those little kids. I think maybe I can awaken some love of bugs in them, too!" Wild said.

The 18–21 Transition Services program in Greeley-Evans School District 6 supports students with disabilities by fostering essential skills for success in their communities. The program serves students ages 18–21 who have met graduation credit requirements but still have transition needs related to their goals beyond high school.

"With this program, it focuses on where you want to go and your goals for employment. Mine was to work at the Butterfly Pavilion," Anya explained.

Anya's time at the Butterfly Pavilion will continue even as her journey with the 18–21 Transitions Program comes to an end. She's excited for the next chapter and eager to see where her passion and the skills she's gained will take her.



# District 6 Nutrition Director Wins Silver Plate Award



Danielle Bock might like to call herself a lunch lady, but the director of District 6's Nutrition Services Department is so much more. She is a staunch defender of providing free, healthy meals to all students in District 6, in Colorado, and nationally. She lobbies statewide and nationally for public school meal programs. And, she knows that good nutrition leads to good academic outcomes for students.

Those are just some of the reasons Danielle Bock was recognized as the 2026 Silver Plate Award winner in the Elementary and Secondary Schools category. This prestigious national award, presented by IFMA The Food Away from Home Association, recognized her exceptional leadership and dedication to improving foodservice for students.

The award, often called the Oscars of food service, honors individuals whose career achievements serve as models of excellence in the foodservice industry. Award recipients are selected by a distinguished panel of trade editors and former award winners, celebrating those who have made significant contributions across various sectors of the foodservice field.

"Danielle, your leadership has created a national blueprint for how we should serve students and families," said District 6 Superintendent Dr. Deirdre Pilch at a recent school board meeting where Danielle was honored. "You remind us every day that children cannot learn if they are hungry, and they can't learn without healthy food in their bellies."

Bock will be officially recognized in May at a national event in Chicago.

"I really mostly want to say thank you to the 264 nutrition service professionals who work tirelessly every day in this district," Bock said. "This award is not about the work I am doing; it is about the work we are doing as a district."

# Northridge's Joanna Fedor Wins top ProStart® Award

Joanna Fedor, Family and Consumer Science Teacher at Northridge High School, was recently named the 2026 Colorado ProStart Teacher of the Year.

At Northridge High School, 150-200 students participate in the Hospitality and Food Services career pathway, with approximately 50 of those students involved in the ProStart pathway each year. The Colorado ProStart career pathway is a high school career training program that provides students with hands-on experience in culinary arts, the hospitality industry, business fundamentals, restaurant management, and customer service.

Fedor loves the relationships she gets to build with students. "My classroom is a place where students can be themselves, try new things, and grow in confidence," she said. "There's something really special about cooking and eating together. It naturally builds connection and creates a sense of family. I see that especially in ProStart, where students often come in as strangers and leave feeling like a family."

Students leave the program with practical, real-world skills. "Learning how to cook for themselves gives students a sense of independence, and for many, it sparks a lifelong passion," Fedor said.

Beyond culinary skills, Fedor emphasizes confidence, professionalism, communication, and a strong work ethic – skills that can be used in whatever careers the students decided to pursue. "My goal is for every student to feel prepared, capable, and proud of what they've accomplished," she said.

These efforts are making an impact, leading to Joanna's nomination and recognition from the Colorado Restaurant Foundation.

"Joanna is a well-respected leader in our school district. She is known by her colleagues to bring energy, joy, and enthusiasm to Northridge High School to both students and staff," said Dr. Deirdre Pilch. "We are lucky she is in District 6!"





## Wildcats finish strong at state

The Greeley Central High School boys soccer team made history this season, finishing as runners-up in the Class 4A state championship after an incredible playoff run. The Wildcats advanced to the title match for the first time in program history before falling 2-0 to Mullen High School at Weidner Field in Colorado Springs.

Greeley Central entered the championship game with an outstanding season, going undefeated leading up to the final. Their powerful offense, led by standout scorers Diego Guzman and Allyson Izaguirre Almendarez, was one of the most dangerous in the state throughout the season.

Although the season ended just short of a championship, Greeley Central's historic run to second place marks a milestone for the program and highlights the determination and teamwork displayed by the Wildcats throughout the year.



## Breaking Barriers, Building a Future

"I failed my first test ever, my trigonometry test, and I asked myself, 'How am I going to come back from this?'"

Sara Venegas, a senior at Early College Academy (ECA) who was a finalist for the prestigious Boettcher Foundation Scholarship, reflects for a moment and leans forward in her chair, "One little misstep doesn't define you. I don't always have to be the perfectionist. I can push forward and still do well."

The high school senior will be the first in her family to attend college after high school. While Sara's family did not have the first-hand knowledge to eventually guide her through the higher education system, they deliberately cultivated a supportive home environment and community that inspired her to pursue her academic goals. This emphasis on community became an integral part of Sara's value system, pushing her to excellence and molding her into the scholar she is.

As an elementary student at Bella Romero K-8 Academy, Sara became involved in Student Council where she frequently served meals at a homeless shelter. After school, she also participated in three sports. Transitioning to Early College Academy, Sara was the only female student from her Bella Romero grade to take on the demanding challenge of earning both a high school diploma and an Associate's degree. Though it was nerve wracking, Sara found a new community in the Greeley Dream Team, National Honor Society, ECA Student Council, and the D6 Student Council of Representatives, where she now helps represent student voices at official school board meetings.

When asked what advice she would give younger students, Sara said, "Find community. Being first generation, I've always strived to be higher, but sometimes, I feel like I don't have a lot to offer. What has helped me not be doubtful is knowing that my community believes in me," Sara beams.

Sara plans to continue giving back to her community after attending medical school at the University of Colorado Boulder. She dreams of becoming a gynecologist who can effectively relate to and treat her female and Spanish-speaking patients. Attending Early College Academy has given her a two-year head start for that dream.

"I knew I wanted that Associate's degree, I knew I wanted those college classes, I knew I wanted to save money. For me, it was absolutely worth coming to ECA because I knew what I wanted."

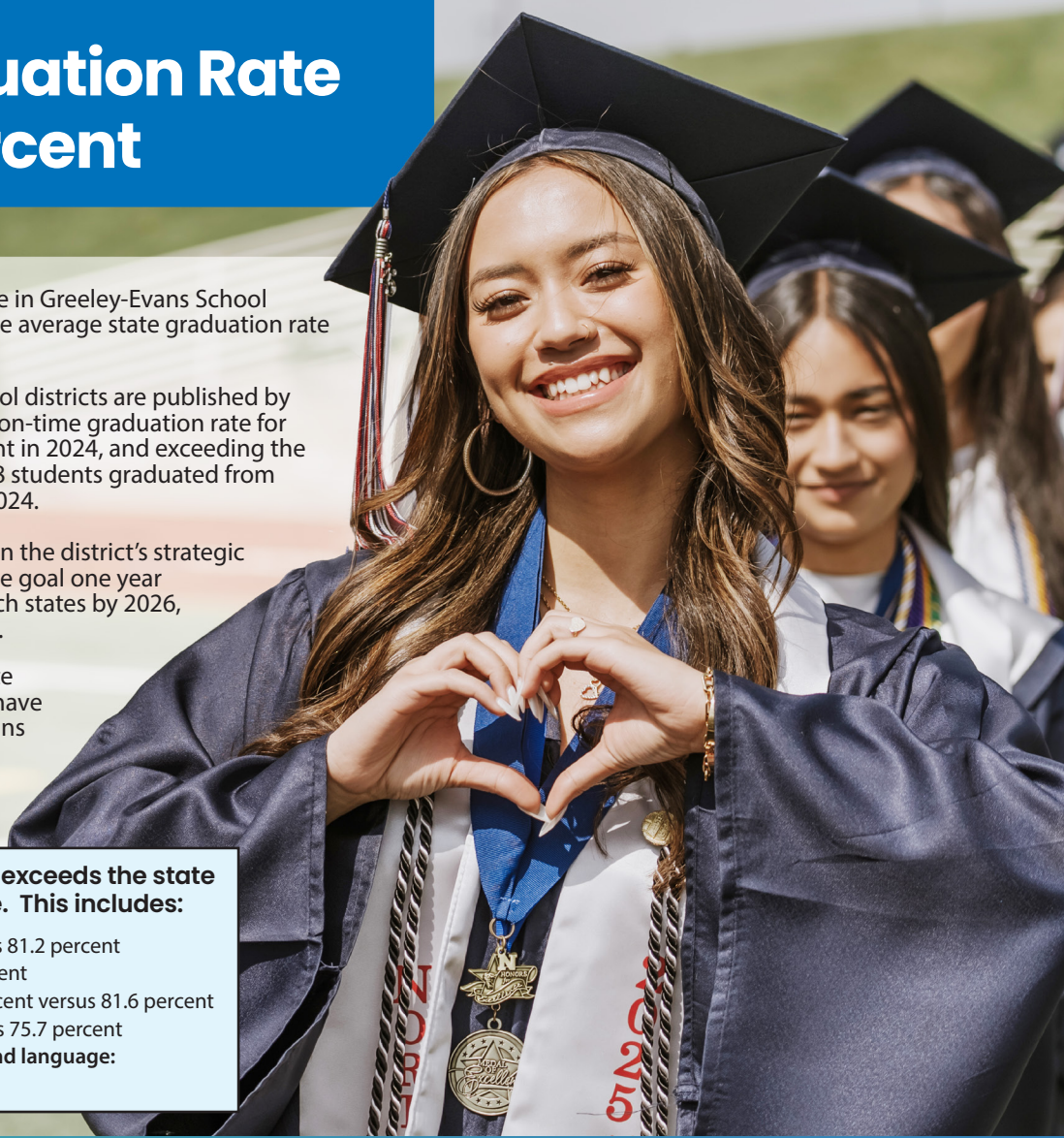
# On-time Graduation Rate Exceeds 90 Percent

For the first time, the on-time graduation rate in Greeley-Evans School District 6 exceeds 90 percent, which beats the average state graduation rate by more than four percentage points.

The 2025 graduation rates for Colorado school districts are published by the Colorado Department of Education. The on-time graduation rate for District 6 is 90.1 percent, up from 87.3 percent in 2024, and exceeding the state average of 85.6 percent. A total of 1,608 students graduated from District 6 schools in 2025, up from 1,465 in 2024.

Reaching the 90 percent milestone is a goal in the district's strategic plan, Innovation2030. The district has met the goal one year earlier than outlined in Innovation2030, which states by 2026, 90 percent of students will graduate on time.

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



## On-time graduation rate in District 6 exceeds the state average in every category but one. This includes:

- ✓ **Hispanic/Latino students:** 89.4 percent versus 81.2 percent
- ✓ **White students:** 93.7 percent versus 91.4 percent
- ✓ **Black or African American students:** 88.9 percent versus 81.6 percent
- ✓ **Students with disabilities:** 83.9 percent versus 75.7 percent
- ✓ **Students who are learning English as a second language:** 84.7 percent versus 73.2 percent

## “Mama Gina” awarded Classified Employee of the Year



Gina Hohmann, Office Manager at Ann K. Heiman Elementary School, was named the Classified Employee of the Year by the Greeley-Evans District 6 Classified Council. Hohmann was honored at a Board of Education meeting in March.

Hohmann has worked 29 years for District 6, 22 of which she's been at Heiman Elementary, a school she helped open. She's lovingly called "Mama Gina" for fostering a welcoming, supportive environment for students, staff, and families.

"Gina Hohmann is the most kind-hearted, selfless, encouraging person. She makes all students feel safe and welcomes them with open arms," writes Samantha Lanning, first-grade teacher at Heiman. "Gina always takes time out of her day to say hello and makes anybody who walks through the front door feel welcomed."

In addition to her role as office manager, Hohmann helped establish the school community garden and assists with its maintenance. She serves at the Community Back to School Kickoff event each year and volunteers at numerous after-school events.

The District 6 Classified Council sponsors the Classified Employee of the Year award annually. A committee reviews all nominations and recommends a winner. This year, in addition to Hohmann, there were two other finalists honored: Jason Harmon, campus monitor at Northridge High School, and Jim Lechman, campus monitor at Greeley Central High School.

# District 6 celebrates school anniversaries

Two Greeley-Evans School District 6 schools marked milestone anniversaries this school year, and one is about to embark on a year-long 100th anniversary celebration.



**Shawsheen Elementary School** celebrated its 50th Anniversary in November 2025 at the school, featuring student performances, cultural presentations by Indigenous groups, school trivia, games, and refreshments.

Hundreds of people packed two performances in the gymnasium. The school choir performed several songs, and former Shawsheen students and staff were recognized. Two Indigenous groups presented educational information about traditional dances and other traditions, and two family members of current Shawsheen students presented their own Indigenous family histories, artwork, and traditions outside the gymnasium.

Shawsheen opened in November of 1975. The school is named for a Ute Tribe heroine who is attributed with helping to negotiate the release of members of the Meeker and Price families during the Battle of Milk Creek in 1879.



**Greeley Central High School** will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2027, including a community carnival on July 17, 2027, at Greeley Central. This special event will include a variety of entertainment, food, and activities for families to participate in throughout the day.



A committee of former Greeley Central faculty members, students, and community members have been planning the 100th Anniversary celebration for more than a year. Throughout the 2027-2028 school year, the group is planning to host an archive and memorabilia display, participate in assemblies and the annual homecoming parade, represent Greeley Central in community

events, and participate in other activities at the school. Be sure to watch for more information this coming school year.



**Prairie Heights Middle School** celebrated its 10th anniversary in September 2025 with an evening program, refreshments, and tours of the school. Community members, alumni, former and current staff members, and community partners enjoyed musical and cheerleading performances and student-led tours of the school.

Construction on Prairie Heights began in 2013 after voters, in November 2012, approved a small bond issue used as matching dollars for a state Building Excellent Schools Today grant. It was constructed as a replacement school for John Evans Middle School. Prairie Heights Middle School opened in August 2015.



Abigail Tovar, a graduating senior from Greeley Central High School, was this year's recipient of the Wilbert R. Wiedeman Scholarship, administered through the Weld Community Foundation. This \$80,000 scholarship is given to one student annually at Greeley Central. Wilbert Wiedeman's wife, Marge Wiedeman, was a graduate of this school.

The scholarship was presented to a very surprised Abigail at a Board of Education meeting on March 9.

"I promise I will take this opportunity and make so much more of it and give back to my community," Abigail said.

Abigail is a multi-sport athlete, thespian, and student body president at Greeley Central, in addition to being in many clubs and organizations. She also helped create a recycling program at Greeley Central. She was one of eight finalists for the scholarship.



# District 6 Partnerships Simplify Path from High School to College

Through a partnership with Aims Community College and the University of Northern Colorado, students from District 6 have the opportunity to seamlessly transition from high school to college with direct admissions and support services.

District 6 high school graduates can enroll through the annual student data update form. District 6 then securely shares student data with Aims Community College and UNC, allowing both institutions to issue admission notices and outline next steps. Once admitted, students receive proactive support, including academic advising, registration assistance, and financial aid guidance toward FAFSA and scholarships.

“We are incredibly grateful for our partnerships with Aims Community College and UNC,” said Board of Education President Natalie Mash. “By simplifying the path to higher education through opportunities like Direct Admissions, we can ensure that every student, regardless of their background, feels supported and knows their potential is not limited by access to education.”

The goal of the program is to make the path from high school to college simple, clear, and supportive for all District 6 high school students.



**COMING SOON** →

## Portrait of a Graduate – Our Promise to our Students and Community

**GREELEY-EVANS PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE**

**CONFIDENT**

- Engage in meaningful conversations
- Express ideas clearly & confidently
- Communicate professionally

**RESILIENT**

- Set goals & make informed decisions
- Adapt to a changing world
- Persevere through challenges

**COLLABORATIVE**

- Collaborate effectively with others
- Advocate for community needs
- Take action for positive change

**STRATEGIC**

- Ask questions & investigate
- Think critically & present solutions
- Apply learning to real-life challenges

While earning a District 6 diploma, students will engage in at least one of the following:

- 12-College Credits
- Industry Certification
- Work Based Learning
- Advanced Placement Courses
- Seal of Biliteracy
- International Baccalaureate Courses

In Greeley-Evans School District 6, “soft skills,” such as confident communication and strategic thinking, are being redefined as essential academic mindsets that all graduates will walk across the stage with. Starting in Fall 2026, the district will implement Portrait of a Graduate – a strategic framework of developing cognitive, personal, and interpersonal skills in graduates.

This vision for what our graduates will become was shaped through a collaborative process between the district and the Greeley-Evans community. The voices of students, families, and local business leaders helped identify traits each graduate should exhibit for success in college, career, and community. Our graduates must be: Strategic, Confident, Collaborative, and Resilient.

Every instructional K-12 staff member will nurture these skills by receiving dedicated professional development in Instructional Integration and Vertical Alignment. Both trainings will help staff integrate these skills into existing math, literacy, and elective curriculum. The training will provide understanding of what learning these skills looks like for all our students. Staff will use rubrics to help students self-assess their progress in pillar areas, such as collaboration and perseverance.

Families are an integral part of Portrait of a Graduate. District Parent and Family Engagement Specialists will proactively share monthly themes with families that focus on the pillars. Families will also receive guidance and education on how to reinforce these skills outside of school. High school students will be encouraged by both their families and the district to participate in one or more of the following: Seal of Biliteracy, Work Based Learning, Advanced Placement Courses, International Baccalaureate Courses, Industry Certification, and College Credits.

# MAKING WAVES

Mauricio Marquien Mendoza makes a splash on the Greeley West Swim Team

For Mauricio Marquien Mendoza, swimming is more than just a sport, it's a reminder to never back down from challenges and to keep growing.

Mauricio is no stranger to adversity. He lost his eyesight at just 12 years old, yet he continues to find ways to grow both in and out of school. Swimming became one of those challenges.

What began in his sophomore year as a once-a-month visit to the pool for lessons with D6 adaptive P.E. instructor Connor Rodrigo quickly became a passion. But like any journey of growth, it wasn't easy. Mauricio admits he was scared to even get into the water at first. With practice and encouragement from his teachers, his confidence began to build, enough for him to take a big step and join the swim team.

"I'm still a little scared, but doing it every day makes me feel more confident," he said.

Now, Mauricio is a member of the swim team at Greeley West. He competes in the 50-yard unified freestyle, and his season is just getting underway. Last year, he advanced to state in this event.

"I was the only one with a disability on the team, so I was kind of nervous at first. But I learned to enjoy it and being with other people. They supported me, and they wanted me there as part of the team. I feel like I was included and I wanted to stay on the team."

Stories like Mauricio's highlight the importance of programs like Greeley-Evans District 6's adaptive P.E. program. Without opportunities like these, students might never discover new sports or uncover passions they didn't know they had.





## How District 6 is Addressing Artificial Intelligence (AI) in its Classrooms and with Staff

“ChatGPT! Can you write an essay about Frankenstein? My teacher says it HAS to be about ethics and science.”

“Happy to help! Here’s a five-paragraph essay exploring the ethical responsibilities of scientific creation in Frankenstein by Mary Shelley.”

Americans are growing increasingly hesitant about the use of artificial intelligence in K-12 classrooms, with examples like the above interaction fueling fears about academic integrity.

According to the PEW Research Center, 62% of adults interact with AI at least several times a week. That number will increase as U.S. workplaces continue to implement widespread adoption of AI tools. For students to be both college and career ready, it became critical for Greeley-Evans School District 6 to create strategies for the responsible use of AI in district classrooms.

The district AI Task Force focused on vetting AI tools against district learning goals for students and instructional practices for staff outlined in Innovation2030; educating students and staff in AI safety and foundations and ensuring that AI usage does not violate academic integrity.

In 2025, the task force began piloting MagicSchool and CourseMojo. MagicSchool helps teachers plan lessons and tailor instruction, and CourseMojo provides 1:1 English Language Arts support for middle schoolers.

Staff are required to complete the “AI Foundations for Educators” course, which covers best practices in student privacy and safeguarding confidential information, and students undergo AI literacy training provided by Common Sense Media.

The district’s goal is to use technology to enhance thinking, NOT replace it. Academic Integrity is maintained by using The Stoplight Guide:

- Red Light: No AI Allowed. Stop and think for yourself. All ideas, sentences, and logic must come directly from you.
- Yellow Light: AI as a Spark. Use AI for brainstorming with staff permission. You must write the final product. You must show “before and after” steps.
- Green Light: AI as a Co-Pilot. AI is a tool to help with complex research, data analysis, and learning AI prompting skills. You are responsible for the accuracy of the final output. Full citation of AI tools and submission of prompt history required.

Greeley-Evans School District 6 is focused on teaching students how and when to use AI ethically and responsibly. Rather than allowing it to become a shortcut, the district is intentionally shaping AI into a tool that supports deeper thinking, personalized learning, and future readiness for all students.

# 18 District 6 schools ranked at performance

When the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) 2024-2025 state tests results were released in September 2025, it was revealed that 18 schools in Greeley-Evans School District 6 have reached the performance level, according to rankings released by the Colorado Department of Education.

"We are seeing some of the greatest achievement and growth we have ever seen in District 6 in our CMAS results," said Board of Education President Natalie Mash. "We have 18 of our schools on performance. This is the most District 6 has ever had at this level."

The District Performance Frameworks and School Performance Frameworks assign overall ratings to school districts and schools throughout the state of Colorado based on achievement and growth on state assessments, as well as postsecondary measures such as graduation rates, drop-out rates, college entrance exams, and college matriculation rates. The ratings go from the lowest of "turnaround" to the highest of "performance" for schools, and from "turnaround" to "distinction" for school districts.

Here are some of the highlights of this year's results:

- Christa S. McAuliffe STEM Academy outperformed the state on English language arts results at every grade level.
- Dos Rios Elementary School, Monfort Elementary School, and Heath Middle School all jumped from priority improvement to performance.
- All District 6 traditional middle schools are at the performance level.
- Nine District 6 schools experienced growth in math scores that exceeded the state average.

"We are very excited about these results and want to give a huge shoutout to our staff and our students," Dr. Pilch said. "Ten years ago, we had three schools on turnaround and eight on priority improvement. We are moving in the right direction."

District 6 still has five schools on priority improvement. Dr. Pilch said the district will be providing extra support to those schools as they work to improve their performance ratings.

"We know that we still have more work to do. We do still have a few schools at priority improvement and improvement, and we know we need to move those schools to the performance level," Dr. Pilch said. "We are committed to doing that work."

To get more information about the Performance Frameworks, visit [www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/performanceframeworks](http://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/performanceframeworks).



# Internships and Career Pathways



Aiden Flores  
Northridge High School  
Banner Health



Sam Sanchez  
Northridge High School  
Greeley Fire Department

Personalized Learning in Greeley-Evans School District 6 includes: exploring careers, earning industry certificates, taking free college courses in high school, and participating in summer internships.

By 2028, the district's goal is to have 90% of students in grades 6-12 pursuing a college or career pathway to prepare them for postsecondary education or the workforce. There are 29 Career Pathways and 14 Career Academies to choose from in District 6 high schools and the Career & Technical Education (CTE) Center.

Xello, a career exploration software, provides real-world job search experience for high schoolers seeking a paid, 150-hour internship. Northern Colorado businesses and organizations list summer internship opportunities for students to explore and apply to. Once accepted into an internship, students have the ability to make and track skills and goals they've acquired as an intern. These skills are added into the student's resume for future use.

Over 300 students have applied to the 200 internship placements available during Summer 2026, making the internship program highly competitive. The district always welcomes new organizations who want to partner in this program. The internship program is beneficial to both the student and the host organization by:

- Giving staff the opportunity to manage a student intern and develop management skills
- Allowing student interns the opportunity to explore local career opportunities
- Providing local organizations a direct pipeline into their workforce

Looking to the future, the district plans to make the internship program year-round by offering work-based credit. This credit would largely apply to high school seniors who would benefit from work-based experience.

# Success Foundation continues to transform opportunities in District 6



Lily Hillyer, Senior  
Greeley Central High School

From helping to fund discovery labs in elementary, K-8, and middle schools in District 6 to ensuring every school has a food pantry for students and families to supplement meals at home, the Success Foundation Serving Greeley-Evans Schools has made a huge impact on students and staff since it formed in 2010.

Now, the foundation is raising additional resources to support District 6 music programs, elementary athletic programs, career pathway programs, internships, and continuing to support opportunities for students through the Delia & John W. Haefeli Opportunity Fund, which helps provide needed educational and extracurricular support to District 6 students through individual and group grants.

To donate to the Success Foundation and learn more about the many programs and opportunities it supports in District 6, visit [www.d6successfoundation.org](http://www.d6successfoundation.org).



“ Receiving a new bass clarinet changed everything for me. It let me finally hear my true potential. Thanks to the Success Foundation, I did not just get a better instrument, I got the chance to truly grow, believe in myself, and continue my musical journey.

Lily Hillyer, Greeley Central High School ”



Discover District 6 Academy is a program that was initiated in October 2025 to provide interested community members an in-depth look at how the district operates and learn about its strategic goals and objectives, educational opportunities for students, and daily operations.

Focused on the District’s strategic plan, Innovation2030, the Academy had 23 participants this year from throughout the community, including business owners and employees, parents and guardians, real estate agents, government employees, employees of non-profits, and retired community members.

The group met monthly at various District 6 schools and facilities from October through April. Topics included elementary literacy, career and technical education programs, 2019 bond issue projects and facility needs, athletics and activities, special education services, transportation, food service, graduation rates and initiatives, and included a panel presentation by high school students.

Through this program, District 6 hopes to strengthen relationships across the community, give participants knowledge and understanding they can share, create support and opportunities for students districtwide, and enhance public participation in District 6 committees, task forces, and elected offices.

If you are interested in participating in the 2026-2027 Discover District 6 Academy, applications will be available in September 2027. For more information, visit [www.greeleyschools.org/our-district/discover-district-6-academy](http://www.greeleyschools.org/our-district/discover-district-6-academy).

## D6 Expands Employee Volunteer Program

D6 Gives Back is an employee volunteer program born out of Innovation2030, within the Strengthening Partnerships focus area.

D6 Gives Back offers eight hours of paid leave for staff to volunteer in the community during their contract time. The program was piloted last year with employees in the central administration office. This year, the program has expanded to include school administrators and technical staff. The plan is to expand the program each year.

This year, 21 organizations are working with District 6 to provide volunteer opportunities to employees. School-based staff who cannot always leave the building look for philanthropic projects that can be completed at a school site or volunteer opportunities on days that students are not in school. Volunteer hours are tracked by the district with the assistance of the community partners.

District 6 will work to provide volunteer opportunities for all employees interested in giving back to their community.



# Community Collaboration to Bring New D6 Administration Building



*Preliminary renderings of the new District 6 Administration Building at 9th Avenue & 11th Street, breaking ground July 2026.*



In 2025, District 6 embarked on a collaborative journey that will provide students, families, staff, and residents with a facility that meets the demands of a 21st century school district in a growing community. The building will also play a role in helping to revitalize Greeley's downtown area, making it a meaningful investment for the entire community.

The journey toward a new District 6 administration building started last year when organizers from the City of Greeley, Weld County, Richmark Vertical (development company), and Greeley-Evans School District 6 met to discuss the idea of working together to upgrade several aging public service facilities, including Greeley City Hall and the District 6 administration building.

The result of those discussions is the Downtown Civic Campus project - a long-term investment in downtown Greeley designed to create economic opportunity, provide needed amenities for residents, and support revitalization by bringing together public services and workplaces, dining, and small businesses, as well as create gathering spaces and green areas.

"The current D6 administration building is about 75 years old and was originally built to function as a bank," said Kent Henson, Assistant Superintendent of Operations. "We did a building assessment and what we found in the data was that, with the number of work orders we were opening just to fix and maintain issues with this building, we would need to pay to have a person here every single day for a year, and it would cost around \$23 million to fix and update everything."

Because the 75,000 square-foot building was a bank, the space has become extremely inefficient to heat and cool due to big open spaces, such as the area that once served as the bank lobby. Additionally, the building has flooded several times, and the presence of asbestos is a concern, as is the case with many buildings of this age.

"In addition, the office arrangement just makes for really inefficient use of the space, and the building simply doesn't allow for structural updates to fix that," Henson said.

With the construction of a new \$38 million, 60,000 square-foot building, the district will be able to build in the efficiency that it currently lacks in terms of office arrangements that make sense. The new facility will also allow for many of the district's services to operate under one roof. Currently, the Student Enrollment and Family Center are located at a separate site.

"This consolidation will make it much easier for our parents and students to access all of the services they need," said Jeff Kirtley, D6 Director of Facilities. Construction on the block containing the D6 administration building and the new Greeley City Hall is tentatively slated to begin this fall, with a target completion date of spring 2028.

"There were a lot of moving parts to be able to put this plan into action," Kirtley said. "It's really unprecedented and exciting to see the cooperation and collaboration of all these entities coming together to solve some common problems for the community."

## BLUEPRINT FOR GROWTH

Greeley-Evans School District's strategic plan Innovation2030 outlines objectives for facility maintenance and future growth. Under Operational & Organizational Effectiveness, the district is responsible for conducting a facility audit to update the Facility Master Plan. This updated Facility Master Plan will be used for a future bond issue to address ongoing facility and capacity needs. The last Facility Master Plan was conducted and completed during the 2018-2019 school year.

In September 2025, Greeley-Evans School District 6 began working with RB+B Architects, an architectural firm, to conduct a facility needs assessment for every school and building in the school district, including charter schools. RB+B Architects and the district Facilities department expect to conclude the facility needs assessment in May 2026. A final report of the architectural firm's findings will be presented to the Board of Education and available to the Greeley-Evans community in Summer 2026.

The Facility Needs Assessment will provide guidance on future needs such as replacing aging school buildings, eliminating remaining portable classrooms, upgrading outdated bathrooms, installing A/C in all gyms, and building new schools to address classroom capacity concerns and population growth in Greeley and Evans.

Visit [www.speakupgreeley.com/downtown-civic-campus](http://www.speakupgreeley.com/downtown-civic-campus) for more information



1025 9th Avenue  
Greeley, Colorado, 80631  
970-348-6000  
www.greeleyschools.org



## SAVE THE DATE

**AUGUST 1, 2026**  
**9AM - NOON**  
**ISLAND GROVE REGIONAL PARK**

The 13th annual School Kickoff Community Celebration is scheduled for Saturday, August 1, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Island Grove Event Center.

Each year, this popular event welcomes thousands of students and families. Attendees can take advantage of free backpacks filled with school supplies, low cost sports physicals, immunizations, fun activities, and access to more than 60 community non-profit booths, making it a convenient one-stop opportunity to get ready for the upcoming school year.

This event is entirely funded through local sponsorships. For more information or how to donate, please visit [www.greeleyschools.org/kickoff](http://www.greeleyschools.org/kickoff).



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: [D6\\_TitleIX@greeleyschools.org](mailto:D6_TitleIX@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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