



ANNUAL REPORT

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Re-5J School District Citizens,

This community takes great pride in the quality of educational opportunities for our children. Indeed, student successes in the district are a result of strong partnerships that involve many stakeholders. This is apparent with the educational options that are available for our students, your involvement in their education, and our continued focus on the welfare of each student. Our discussions and attention always will be on what is best for children and their future. I am grateful for this collaboration within our community. Our youth may only count as twenty percent of our population, but they are certainly one hundred percent of our future.

Our district mission focuses on the spirit of cooperation within our communities to provide a safe environment and dedicates itself to providing every student challenging and meaningful learning experiences which will then lead to becoming successful citizens. To achieve this mission, students must possess knowledge in subject matter as well as have effective communication skills. Critical thinking is another key component. In addition, there has never been a better time for innovation and creativity to succeed in this world. We will continue as a team to concentrate in these areas in order to help every student achieve success.

This school district report has been created to give you a summary of many aspects that comprise Weld RE-5J. You are welcome to contact me for further discussion, questions, or suggestions involving the education of our students. I appreciate and respect your involvement with our children's education.

Sincerely, Karen Trusler
Karen.trusler@weldre5j.org



DISTRICT OVERVIEW

Weld RE-5J is a growing district in a thriving and desirable community. We enjoy a rural location with stunning mountain views plus easy access to shops, entertainment venues, recreation opportunities, medical facilities, universities, interstates, and more.

The district consists of three elementary schools, one middle school, one high school, and two charter schools. We place a strong emphasis on educating the whole child and inspiring lifelong learners. Our students are empowered to be involved in their learning and to own their educational experiences. We are committed to ensuring that every student reaches their full potential and is prepared for college or a career when they graduate from high school.

As a forward-thinking district, we implement extensive technology integration and are continually expanding partnerships, courses, advanced placement, Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathways, and extracurricular opportunities for ALL. Thriving partnerships with Aims Community College and the University of Northern Colorado create opportunities for students to experience dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment, internships, earn industry certifications, and more.

Our Vision is to collaborate to support and teach the social, emotional, academic, career, and communication skills essential in the preparation and transformation of a well-developed student into a well-developed citizen. To create Instructional Excellence, we'll foster a growth mindset of creativity, collaboration, and communication that will focus on lifelong learning. A trusting and caring relationship within the whole school community promotes civic engagement leading to Collective Efficacy. To bring it all together, Family, School, and Community Partnerships will be achieved through maintaining a welcoming and safe environment within a culture of inclusion and respect that celebrates diversity.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Michael Wailes, President
District E
- Nate Sassano, Vice President
District D
- Sara Hall, Secretary
District A
- Jeremy Scott, Treasurer
District B
- Laura Parry, Director
District C

TEACHERS

- Average # of years as a Teacher - 8
- # of Teachers with a BA Degree - 57
- # of Teachers with a MA Degree - 140
- Number of staff on an Emergency Credential - 0
- % of Highly Qualified Teachers - 100%
- % of Classes taught by highly qualified teachers - 100%

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL



Our graduation rate in 2021 was 85%

92% of Weld RE-5J graduates attend a two- or four-year college

- 55% Pursue a Bachelor's degree *
- 37% Pursue an Associate degree *

* According to the State's Postsecondary Access and Success Report, in the fall of graduation. Data from 2009-2018.

We deliver a **DIVERSE RANGE OF LEARNING** experiences to meet the needs of all students

- A wide variety of Career & Technical Education Pathways, including internships, mentorships, CTSOs, Dual Credit, and Concurrent Enrollment opportunities
- STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)
- Project Based Learning
- Experiential learning
- Technology integration

Weld RE-5J School District is continuously expanding opportunities for students. Our **Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathways empower learners** to discover their passions and talents through real-world experiences which connect learning to life. From elementary school through to graduation day, Weld RE-5J students are preparing for success, wherever their dreams may take them, whether through:

- Further skills training
- University, Community College, Trade School
 - Degree
 - Industry Certifications
 - Apprenticeships
- Earning industry certifications in high school

Elementary students are introduced to career concepts through field experiences, guest presentations and demonstrations, and project-based learning activities.

CTE exploratory courses at Milliken Middle School (MMS) flow seamlessly into Pathways at Roosevelt High School (RHS). CTE students at MMS have **leadership opportunities** through Career and Technical Student Organizations, learn directly from teachers and students at RHS, and engage with industry professionals. This gives our learners a jump-start on high school and provides risk-free opportunities to explore career interests before making a commitment to a particular field.

Roosevelt High School students have multiple opportunities to **develop valuable skills while gaining work experience, college credits, and industry certifications** while still in high school. These options can save on college tuition costs while enabling students to reach their goals faster. We currently offer 15 CTE pathways at RHS and are continually expanding options.



CTE STUDENTS AT RHS CAN SAVE MONEY AND GET A HEAD START ON FURTHER EDUCATION AND CAREERS

STEM, Project Based Learning, Experiential Learning, and technology are integrated into lessons across all grade levels in all schools.



Examples of technology integration include access to technology-based maker spaces, computer labs, and iPads. Clubs and CTE pathways deliver additional IT immersion.



Academic Programming and College Credit Options at RHS

- Advanced Placement (AP):
Nine weighted courses
- Honors Courses: Three courses
- Independent Study:
Available to qualifying seniors
- Career & Technical Education (CTE):
Fifteen Pathways
- Dual Enrollment: Aims Community College, University of Northern Colorado
- Concurrent Enrollment:
Aims Community College and other institutions of higher learning
- Aims Career Academy:
Concurrent enrollment for CTE Courses

A wide range of clubs, organizations, and organized sports ensure that all individuals can discover and develop their interests and talents.



Financial Information

Weld County School District RE-5J
Fiscal Accountability
FY 2020-21 (Unaudited)

GENERAL FUND REVENUE

Local Sources	15,274,757
State Sources	21,511,975
Federal Sources	3,244,107
Total Revenue	40,030,839
Transfers Out	(5,602,043)
Net Revenue	34,428,796

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

Instruction	19,817,366
Pupil Services	2,011,501
Instructional Services	1,615,855
General Administration	809,880
School Administration	1,959,166
Business Services	484,940
Maintenance	2,937,439
Transportation	1,036,759
Technology	1,188,576
Food Service	23,440
Non-Instructional Services	15,000
Debt Service	398,127
Total Expenditures	32,298,049

Beginning Fund Balance	4,373,520
Net of Revenue/(Expenditures)	2,130,747
Ending Fund Balance	6,504,267

Note, totals may not foot due to rounding.

SCHOOL ACCREDITATION STATUS 2020

Milliken Elementary School (K-5)	Improvement
Letford Elementary School (K-5)	Improvement
Pioneer Ridge Elementary School (K-5)	Performance
Milliken Middle School (6-8)	Performance
Roosevelt High School (9-12)	Performance
CIVICA Colorado (6-10)	New School
Knowledge Quest Academy (K-8)	Performance

District Accreditation Status **Accredited**

RE-5J School District Improvement Plan for Achievement

As required by the Educational Accountability Act of 2009, Weld RE-5J School District has entered into an Accreditation Agreement with the state of Colorado focusing on raising student achievement through performance frameworks addressed in a Unified Improvement Plan for each school and a District Improvement Plan for the District. By addressing the goals in the Unified Improvement Plan and District Improvement Plan the District and each school has the opportunity to not only help more students succeed academically, but also improve in the accreditation categories set by the State of Colorado.

The District participates fully in the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS). Other information about student progress and program effectiveness is provided by data collected from other school and classroom-based assessments. Data is also collected through additional external assessments, which give us data to compare our students to other students on a national level. Additional assessments we use to gain information include the ACT, PSAT, ACT, NWEA, and other content-area assessments. These assessments provide the necessary data required for district and school accreditation and aid us in developing improvement plan goals.

LETTER FROM BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESIDENT

It is an exciting time in the Weld RE-5J School District and one ripe with opportunity. Thanks to the investment our communities have made in 2020, we will be opening our newest elementary school, Elwell Elementary, in time for the 2022-23 school year, with the opening of the BRAND-NEW Roosevelt High School the following year.

Already winning awards for its design, the new high school is also garnering the attention of many of our neighbors who are eager to see the Career/Technical Education, performing arts, and athletic opportunities that this facility will bring to the region.

Speaking of Career/Technical Education, the District continues to grow and expand its course offerings, including the development of partnerships with post-secondary educational institutions and employers. None of this would have been possible without the voter approval of the Mill Levy Override.

The Mill Levy Override also allowed the District to expand its instructional coaching program to make sure all of our staff has the training and resources they need to lead our students towards greater achievement in the classroom and beyond. The Board of Education meets on the first and third Wednesday at the District's administration building, 110 S. Centennial Dr., Milliken, CO, starting at 7 p.m. You can also learn more about the Weld RE-5J School District by visiting the District's website located at weldre5j.k12.co.us.

Michael D. Wailes - President, Weld RE-5J Board of Education

INSTRUCTIONAL UPDATES

In a typical year, the annual report would

include Colorado Measures of Academic Success and other test scores. As you know, because of the complications and challenges presented by COVID, our students have not experienced a typical school year in awhile.

This year, we are implementing Project Based Learning at each of our schools. Through Project Based Learning, our students take an authentic problem or challenge, design an appropriate approach to addressing the problem or challenge, research, and develop products. This allows students to have a sense of ownership of their learning through their opinions, questions, team roles, and choice. It is very motivating for students, and our teachers are doing an amazing job of building curiosity and strong critical thinking through Project Based Learning.

In our elementary schools this year, we implemented a math program called Bridges. To implement any new program is very challenging, but our elementary staff has done a great job! We are excited to help our youngest learners become strong mathematicians through effective math instruction.

There are many other amazing examples of great instruction and learning taking place in all of our Weld RE-5J Schools! Thank you for your support!

Sincerely, Tami Kramer - Executive Director of Instruction

Notice of NON-Discrimination

Weld County School District RE-5J is an equal opportunity educational institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, marital status, disability, or any other protected status in any activity, program, or practice of the District, as required by Title II, Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, and other applicable laws. For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures, please contact Karen Trusler, Interim Superintendent, Weld County School District RE-5J, 110 South Centennial Drive, Milliken, CO 80543, (970) 587-6050. You may also contact the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Region VIII, Federal Office Building, 1244 North Speer Blvd., Suite 310, Denver, Colorado 80104, (303) 844-2991

BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE

Weld RE-5J School District is going from **STRENGTH** to **STRENGTH**

The capital improvement projects highlighted on this page were made possible thanks to voters passing a bond in the fall of 2020. We are very grateful for our amazing community, staff, board of education, and partners for their commitment to the best quality of education for our children.

STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES HAVE ALREADY BEEN DESIGNED AND FUNDED, INCLUDING:

- New high school (due to be completed in 2023)
- New middle school
- Replacement elementary school
- Upgrades to all other buildings

“We are driving to become a leading district in Colorado and nationwide.”

**- Michael Wailes, President
Weld RE-5J Board of Education**

Our state-of-the art high school is due to be completed in August of 2023



All building work is on schedule and on budget.



This site for the new high school is approximately 80 acres with primary access/frontage on County Road 13 (Colorado Boulevard) and was donated by the Saur family.

The current RHS High School will be converted to a new middle school.



Conversion work will begin in the summer of 2023 once the new Roosevelt High School is complete. Weld RE-5J School District received a \$19 million BEST Grant for the new middle school to total almost \$29 million in BEST Grants awarded since 2019. These grants are just one example of ways the district is continually working to make tax dollars stretch further to create the maximum benefit for students and the community.

Elwell Elementary School

The official groundbreaking for Elwell Elementary School (the replacement for Letford) was on June 5th. Weld RE-5J School District also applied for, and was awarded, a competitive BEST Grant of over \$9.5 million towards construction. The school is scheduled to open in August of 2022.



Milliken Elementary School and Pioneer Ridge Students Returned to New Furniture in the Fall

When Milliken and Pioneer Ridge Elementary School students returned to school this fall, they had new furniture and environments to experience. In addition to being sturdy, comfortable, and attractive, the fittings (including STEM carts, maker spaces, and much more) were designed to promote collaboration, project-based learning, and STEM learning. A Furniture Advisory Committee representing every team/grade from both schools worked extensively over several months and used a design thinking model to reimagine spaces to fit how kids learn best.