

October 17, 2008
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information:

Melissa Reeves, mdreeves@jeffco.k12.co.us, Jeffco Public Schools, 303-982-6567

Lynn Setzer, lsetzer@jeffco.k12.co.us, Jeffco Public Schools, 303-982-6810

New Calendar Approved for 2009-10 School Year

Jeffco Public Schools has changed its calendar for the 2009-10 school year, with a later start date than students had for the 2008-09 school year.

The new start date for all students will be Aug. 24 after many Jeffco parents voiced concern that this year's calendar start date on Aug. 12 was too early. The district asked both staff and parents to respond to an online calendar survey, and based on the responses, the district has amended the 2009-10 school year.

"We took into account community needs around the calendar, student learning needs and teacher staff development needs in planning this new calendar," said Jeffco Public Schools Superintendent Cindy Stevenson.

"We recognize that not everyone in our community will be happy about this calendar, but that's one of the challenges we face when designing a calendar that tries to meet the needs of all of our stakeholders," Stevenson said.

The majority of parents and staff who took the survey opted for a later start date and the elimination of the October mini-break. Because there is very little flexibility in the new calendar, any snow days or other unexpected school closings will be made up on June 1 and 2. The last day of school for most students in 2010 will be May 28.

The approved calendar is only valid for the 2009-10 school year and the district has also changed the look of the calendar in hopes families will find it easier to read.

View the new 2009-10 district calendar at: www.jeffcopublicschools.org/calendar/index.html.