



THE  
COLORADO  
EDUCATION  
INITIATIVE

**Contact Information:**

Sara Bracken

The Colorado Education Initiative

720-502-4730

[sbracken@coloradoedinitiative.org](mailto:sbracken@coloradoedinitiative.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 20, 2014

## Advanced Placement Program Celebrates Record Gains

DENVER, CO – [The Colorado Education Initiative](#) (CEI) in partnership with the [National Math and Science Initiative](#) (NMSI) announced today a 73 percent increase in Advanced Placement\* (AP) scores for the 10 schools that began implementation of the Colorado Legacy Schools initiative in the 2013-2014 school year. The announcement came at a student assembly at Thomas Jefferson High School in Denver.

The Colorado Legacy Schools initiative works to dramatically increase student enrollment and success rates in AP math, science, and English courses at geographically and demographically diverse schools across the state – especially among underserved students.

“To date, the 23 participating high schools have doubled the number of students earning qualifying scores on AP exams, representing 1,200 new students succeeding in this coursework,” said Yee-Ann Cho, The Colorado Education Initiative’s Interim President and CEO.

Colorado Legacy Schools is a local replication of NMSI’s proven College Readiness Program, which has an unparalleled record of closing achievement gaps and increasing college readiness in program schools. The initiative provides funding for extensive teacher training, student exam fees, classroom equipment and supplies, awards for those who excel, and extra time on task for students during Saturday study sessions.

“The AP teachers and students at Thomas Jefferson High School far exceeded our expectations last year. The students’ 153 percent increase in qualifying math, science, and English AP scores represents one of the largest improvements in the entire state,” said Gregg Fleisher, Chief Academic Officer for the National Math and Science Initiative. “Through our partner, The Colorado Education Initiative, we are proud to support Thomas Jefferson and the state of Colorado to ensure that more students have the opportunity to pursue majors and careers in STEM fields.”

The 23 high schools from rural, urban, and suburban school districts throughout Colorado include:

- Abraham Lincoln High School, Denver Public Schools □
- Arvada High School, Jefferson County Public Schools □
- Aurora Central High School, Aurora Public Schools □
- Centennial High School, Pueblo City 60 School District □
- Central High School, Mesa County Valley School District 51 □
- Delta High School, Delta County School District Δ
- Denver South High School, Denver Public Schools Δ
- Fountain-Fort Carson High School, Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8 O
- Fruita Monument High School, Mesa County Valley School District 51 □
- Grand Junction High School, Mesa County Valley School District 51 □
- Greeley Central High School, Weld County School District 6 Δ

- Harrison High School, Harrison School District Two Δ
- James Irwin High School, Harrison School District Two □
- Mesa Ridge High School, Widefield School District 3 ○
- Northglenn High School, Adams 12 Five Star Schools □
- Northridge High School, Weld County School District 6 Δ
- Pueblo South High School, Pueblo City 60 School District Δ
- Rangeview High School, Aurora Public Schools Δ
- Sand Creek High School, Falcon School District 49 Δ
- Skyline High School, St. Vrain Valley Schools Δ
- Thomas Jefferson High School, Denver Public Schools Δ
- Vista Ridge High School, Falcon School District 49 □
- Widefield High School, Widefield School District 3 ○

○ Began implementation of the Colorado Legacy Schools initiative in the 2011-2012 school year.

□ Began implementation of the Colorado Legacy Schools initiative in the 2012-2013 school year.

Δ Began implementation of the Colorado Legacy Schools initiative in the 2013-2014 school year.

Data for the additional schools who began implementation of the Colorado Legacy Schools initiative in the 2014-2015 school year will be available in late 2015.

“The support from CEI gives Thomas Jefferson High School teachers the support to decipher the AP test so they can fine-tune instruction and give our students an edge when they're preparing to take an exam,” said Thomas Jefferson High School Principal Suzanne Morris-Sherer. “Because of the grant, we're able to give students opportunities for extra tutoring to ensure they're ready for the test.”

U.S. Department of Defense and Exxon Mobil Corporation provided initial funding for the Colorado Legacy Schools initiative. These investments led to CEI receiving the Investing in Innovation (i3) grant through the U.S. Department of Education. The grant allowed the program to expand this work throughout the nation.

Learn more about Colorado Legacy Schools at <http://www.coloradoedinitiative.org/our-work/colorado-legacy-schools/>.

###

#### *About The Colorado Education Initiative*

The Colorado Education Initiative envisions that every student in Colorado is prepared and unafraid to succeed in school, work, and life, and to take on the challenges of today, tomorrow, and beyond. CEI unlocks the unique potential of every student in Colorado by incubating innovation, shining a spotlight on success, and investing in sustainable change that improves outcomes for students.

#### *About National Math and Science Initiative*

NMSI, a non-profit organization, was launched in 2007 by top leaders in business, education and science to transform education in the United States. NMSI has received national recognition for improving teacher effectiveness and student performance through the rapid expansion of highly successful programs: NMSI's College Readiness Program, NMSI's Laying the Foundation Teacher Training Program and NMSI's UTeach Expansion Program. Inaugural funding for NMSI was provided by the ExxonMobil Foundation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation. For more information, visit [www.nms.org](http://www.nms.org).

*\*Advanced Placement and AP are registered trademarks of the College Board.*