

02 WINTER  
2021

DIGITAL ISSUE

# JESPA

JEFFCO  
EDUCATION  
SUPPORT  
PROFESSIONALS  
ASSOCIATION

# VIEWPOINT



## THIS ISSUE

*A Message from the President*

*General Membership Meeting*

*JESPA In the News*

*Membership Development &*

*Resources*

*Recent Organizing Action*

*NEA News*

*Elections Are Coming!*

Join JESPA leaders and members from across the county at our next **general membership meeting**, SAT. Jan 30th at 9:00 am. Check email for the registration link

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:  
BARGAINING 2021  
PRIORITIES, BARGAINING  
2020 UPDATES, FACT  
FINDING, AND RATIFICATION,  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS, AND  
REPORTS, BYLAWS NEWS,  
UPCOMING ELECTIONS  
INFORMATION

## DESPITE PANDEMIC JESPA IS STILL GROWING!

JESPA is proud to be one of only 3 unions across the state to have grown in the month of December. We know times are hard for many, but JESPA folks are showing up and speaking up for change. Despite the pandemic, we saw 3x the typical growth for a year in 2020.

Congrats and let's keep building JESPA together! Ask your co-workers to use the link below and join.

<https://jeffcoespa.org/join-jespa-2/>

## JESPA IN THE NEWS

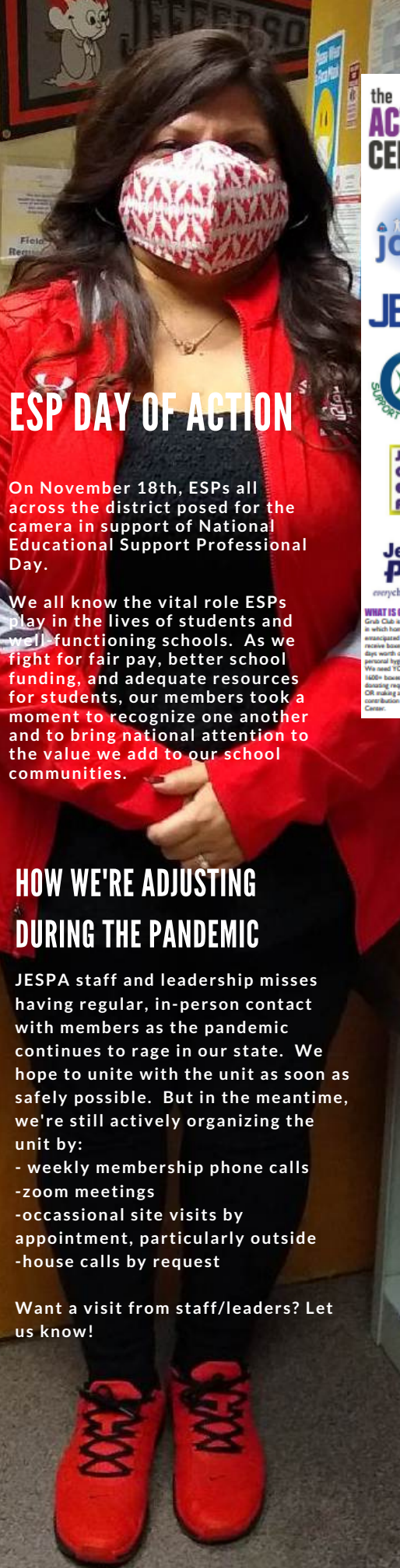
### Jeffco Schools pivot – expand Grab and Go food program

Community group thinks it's a good first step but wonders if it's enough during pandemic



Under pressure from JESPA, and partner organization Coloradans for the Common Good, Jeffco Public Schools rescinded their call for food service worker furloughs, instead expanding the USDA free meal program and putting food service and transportation workers back to work. JESPA members, church leaders, and local nonprofit leaders came together to push the district to do what's right for students by expanding grab-and-go sites, extending hours, and delivering food directly to the community on buses. All together, students now have 50 ways to get food, a vast improvement over the original plan of only 15 sites. We couldn't be more proud of our workforce, advocating for students in this difficult time, building relationships across the community with churches and foodbanks, and protecting JESPA workers' jobs!





## ESP DAY OF ACTION

On November 18th, ESPs all across the district posed for the camera in support of National Educational Support Professional Day.

We all know the vital role ESPs play in the lives of students and well-functioning schools. As we fight for fair pay, better school funding, and adequate resources for students, our members took a moment to recognize one another and to bring national attention to the value we add to our school communities.

## HOW WE'RE ADJUSTING DURING THE PANDEMIC

JESPA staff and leadership misses having regular, in-person contact with members as the pandemic continues to rage in our state. We hope to unite with the unit as soon as safely possible. But in the meantime, we're still actively organizing the unit by:

- weekly membership phone calls
- zoom meetings
- occasional site visits by appointment, particularly outside
- house calls by request

Want a visit from staff/leaders? Let us know!

the ACTION CENTER

jcea

JESPA

SUPPORT JEFFCO KIDS

JCEA

Jeffco PTA everychild.speaks

WHAT IS GRUB CLUB? Grub Club is a bi-weekly program in which homeless and economically disadvantaged students receive boxes filled with three days' worth of food as well as personal hygiene products. We need YOUR help filling the 1400+ boxes needed for 2021 by donating requested food items OR making a direct monetary contribution to The Action Center.

## GRUB CLUB FOOD DRIVE



JANUARY 12 – FEBRUARY 11

Articulation Area	Collection Item	Number Needed
Alameda	Mac & Cheese	3,000
Arvada	Pasta Meals or Chili	2,000
Arvada West	Soup (pop-top)	2,000
Bear Creek	Soup (pop-top)	2,000
Chatfield	Canned Chicken (pop-top)	2,000
Columbine	Fruit Cups	6,500
Conifer	Canned Chicken (pop-top)	2,000
Dakota Ridge	Trail Mix or Nuts	2,000
Evergreen	Canned Chicken (pop-top)	2,000
Golden	Tuna (pop-top or packets)	2,500
Green Mountain	Pasta Meals or Chili	2,000
Jefferson	Hot Chocolate packets	6,000 packets
Lakewood	Oatmeal packets & Soup (pop-top)	6,000/1,000
Pomona	Pasta Meals or Chili	2,000
Ralston Valley	Canned Chicken (pop-top)	2,000
Standley Lake	Peanut Butter (12oz)	1,000
Wheat Ridge	Cookie packets	2,000
JCEA-R & Ed Center	Any of the above items	2,000

## GRUB CLUB FOOD DRIVE



WHAT'S NEW WITH GRUB CLUB 2021?

### Monetary Donations!!

A \$25 donation fills ¼ of a box of goods

1. Donate directly to Action Center...
  - a. This enables participants to provide no-contact support for Grub Club during the COVID-19 pandemic <https://bit.ly/2021ActionCenterGrubClubDrive>



Scan Me!

2. Mail-in check made out to "The Action Center"
  - a. Write "Grub Club" in the memo line
  - b. 8755 W 14th Ave. Lakewood, CO 80215
  - c. OR drop off at JCEA office (mail slot in back of building)

PLEASE SHARE this effort and donation link on your SOCIAL MEDIA platforms (TikTok anyone?) AND contact friends and family out of state... this is an opportunity to gather support for this vital program BEYOND our educator universe!

### Traditional Food Donations:

- Refer to your Articulation Area flyer for specific donation item requests and item drop-off locations

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

When I was working as a library paraprofessional at Kendrick Lakes Elementary School (2006-2011), I had no idea about everything involved in public education. Before becoming active in union work in 2014, I never understood the challenges facing public education or the extent to which it is in danger. Indeed, I have never met anyone who said they don't care about students, but frequently our actions don't align with our values. JESPA is on the forefront of helping members/ESP understand how to better align our values with our actions. You have more power than you know!

So here we stand at the beginning of another calendar year with a worldwide pandemic raging on, students still not back to school like they should be (10 months later), students of color and/or those living in poverty being most at risk, staff/teachers/school-based administrators being asked to put their lives on the line everyday for the sake of a "normally" functioning society, AND a critical school board majority (3 of 5 seats up this year) election in November. Some days it all feels like too much!

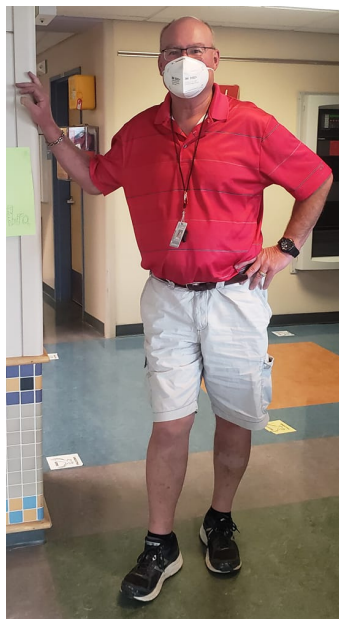
JESPA members continue to lead on issues like childhood hunger (see article on front page) and keeping workers employed in the best interest of students. As we approach the spring semester of 2021, I want to continue to partner with you, our elected legislators, and our Jeffco community allies to raise issues that most matter to ESPs (Education Support Professionals). I want to continue to fight for competitive wages and job security because anything less is disrespectful to workers and families because one full-time job should be enough.

I look forward to interacting and listening to you this year. I look forward to what we can do together. Please reach out to the JESPA office for an organizing conversation about your interest in Jeffco Public Schools being a great place to work and a great place for students to learn. Your involvement is critical to the success of your organization.

Respectfully yours-Lara Center  
JESPA President  
303-279-3232 (office)  
[JeffcoESPA@coloradoea.org](mailto:JeffcoESPA@coloradoea.org)







Do you like what you see? Then join us! JESPA is a collective of workers who value public education and middle class values. You benefit from a strong union. Help yourself by getting involved through:

- organizing trainings - learn how to build a following to address issues you care about
- representation trainings - learn how to be there for your colleagues
- member to member engagement - learn how to actively listen to your co-workers through direct 1:1 engagement in the company of a skilled organizer

## ELECTIONS ARE COMING!

It's almost time for the annual JESPA election season. Running for a position in your sub-association is a great way to get involved in your union and ensure your co-workers' voices are heard. Email Vicki at [vflores@coloradoea.org](mailto:vflores@coloradoea.org) for more information about your sub-association election by February 28th



NEA News

## New Federal Bill Promotes Public Schools as Community Hubs

Integrated academic, health, nutrition, and economic services will transform outcomes for all students.



A new bill in Congress recognizes the foundational role our public schools play in the lives of our communities and would broaden their services to help students and their communities thrive.

U.S. Senators Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), and Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) introduced [The Full-Service Community School Expansion Act of 2020](#). The bill will help schools and districts serve students, families, and communities by providing resources for public schools to be community hubs and provide integrated student supports, expanded and enriched learning opportunities, collaborative leadership, and family and community engagement – including medical, mental, and nutrition health services, mentoring and youth development programs, and continuing education courses.

# I my union



**Build power with your co-workers by recruiting new members before February**

**28th** send forms to JESPA office through Pony or join online at [jeffcoespa.org/join-jespa-2/](http://jeffcoespa.org/join-jespa-2/)

1 new member = I  my union tshirt

2 new members = tshirt + \$20 cash

3 or more new members = tshirt + \$20 cash + Box of steaks

First Name	Last Name	Job Title
Worksite	Personal Email	Cell Phone
Employee ID	Hours Per Day	Home Address
Race / ethnicity (optional) <input type="checkbox"/> Caucasian <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Native American/Alaskan <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> African American Other _____	Are you a US citizen? (optional) <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	I hereby designate JESPA to collect monthly amounts automatically through Payroll Deduction or Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from my designated account to satisfy my annual dues obligations to CEA (Colorado Education Association) and the sub-association that represents my job classification. In the event of my termination, I am responsible for notifying JESPA. I may lose certain rights, such as the right to hold office, if I do not maintain active membership. This Authorization and Assignment is irrevocable for the calendar year in which it is approved, and shall remain in continuous effect without the need for renewal for each subsequent calendar year thereafter unless and until revoked by me. Revocation can only be made by my personal appearance at the JESPA office and my execution of a withdrawal form between November 15 and November 30 during regular office hours of any calendar year after my initial calendar year. In the event that the amount of annual dues obligation is changed, the amount to be transmitted to JESPA through Payroll Deduction and EFT shall be correspondingly changed. Additionally, if my status, job and/or hours change, I acknowledge that JESPA will adjust my dues payment accordingly. I am responsible for notifying JESPA of such changes in a timely manner. By providing my phone number, I understand that the NEA, the CEA, the local association, NEA Member Benefits, and NEA360, may use automated calling techniques and/or text message me on my cellular phone on a periodic basis. The NEA, CEA, and the local association will never charge for text message alerts. Carrier message and data rates may apply to such alerts. By signing, I acknowledge all of the information herein.
<input type="checkbox"/> I elect to pay via payroll deduction (preferred) <input type="checkbox"/> I elect to pay via electronic funds transfer (EFT) Bank Name _____ Routing _____ Acct # _____	Is this your first year working in a school district? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
Who referred you?		
<input type="checkbox"/> I acknowledge that I have read and understand these terms. Signature _____ Date _____		

**JESPA**  
 JEFFERSON COUNTY  
 EDUCATION ASSOCIATION  
 LOCAL 360