

THOMPSON SCHOOL DISTRICT R2-J
IN THE
STATE OF COLORADO

**Resolution Affirming the Importance of the 2020 Census for the Thompson School District
Community**

WHEREAS, the decennial Census occurs every ten years to enumerate every person residing in the United States, and is fundamental to ensuring that all residents of our great communities have access to fair representation, essential services, and economic development; and

WHEREAS, an accurate count of persons living in the communities and counties served by Thompson School District in the 2020 Census is vital to determine the representation of individuals, families, and communities in our local, state, and federal governments; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 Census count of children living in Thompson School District will be the basis of federal education funding allocated to our schools over the next ten years, specifically the federal programs serving our students living in poverty and students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, population data derived in the 2020 Census will be used by both government and businesses to determine which neighborhoods and communities in the Thompson School District should receive services and investments like libraries, health clinics, and grocery and retail stores; and

WHEREAS, the decennial Census has historically undercounted populations in urban areas such as ours; and

WHEREAS, the populations that are prevalent in urban areas are at high risk of being undercounted, including young children, people of color, low-income households, language minority families, foreign-born residents, and households with limited Internet access, according to the U.S. Census Bureau; and

WHEREAS, children are more likely to be missed in the Census count if they reside in the complex households that are also common in urban areas, such as multi-generation households, extended families, and multi-family households; and

WHEREAS, during the 2020 Census, there is a heightened risk of an undercount due to the digital divide, language access issues, and local community mistrust in the federal government; and

WHEREAS, local and state governments, as well as community-based organizations, can play a critical role in counteracting the undercount risks, reaching hard-to-count populations, and ensuring their communities get counted in 2020; and

WHEREAS, it is paramount for the school board, superintendent, principals, teachers, parent organizations, and all local leaders in Thompson School District to communicate the importance of Census 2020 to families and community members to ensure everyone is counted;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Thompson School District will take action to ensure a complete count of all students and their families residing within the school district on the 2020 Census; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Thompson School District is committed to working in partnership with other local civic, business, and community leaders, the State of Colorado, and others to engage, educate, and count every resident in the 2020 Census.

Approved this 8th day of January 2020.

Lori Hvizda Ward, Board President

Barbara Kruse, Secretary