

SUBJECT: Consideration and possible approval for Thompson Intermediate students to travel to Keystone, Colorado to attend the Keystone Science School October 3, through October 9, 2026.

BACKGROUND: Exploration, outdoor education, and leadership development come together for an opportunity to delve deeper into science at the Keystone Science School in Keystone, Colorado. A unique opportunity and tradition that Thompson Intermediate has participated in for years. October 2025 marked the 32nd year that Thompson Intermediate has had the opportunity to attend the Keystone Science School. 2026 will mark Thompson's 33rd year attending Keystone Science School.

Students will be involved in educational activities from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. each day. There is no television, no radio, or cell phones. Activities include daily hiking that presents activities for learning about mountain life zones, environmental concerns like drought and wildfires, adaptations of animals, food webs, and interdependency of all factors in an environment and many of the essential standards prescribed for 7th and 8th grade science. Students learn through hands-on, real-life experiences throughout the trip. Every student that has attended in the past has gained a vast amount of knowledge and life skills from this experience.

Approximately thirty-two (32) students will travel with five (5) chaperones and one (1) administrator. All chaperones will be trained in school district policy regarding responsibilities and duties prior to the trip. All rules of conduct established by the school district will be strictly enforced. A contingency plan for travel and health advisories will be followed if needed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: The trip would be funded by the students and parents according to district policies. The cost will be approximately \$1,800 per student. Students needing additional assistance may apply for scholarships. All student travel guidelines and expectations will be followed according to Business Office Procedures.

RECOMMENDATION:	We recommend approval for Thompson Intermediate students to travel to Keystone, Colorado to attend the Keystone Science School October 3, through October 9, 2026.
CABINET MEMBER(s):	Stacey Barber
CONTACT PERSON(s):	Kandace McMullin Tanis Griffin
BOARD MEETING DATE:	January 20, 2026