



3501 Harry Langdon Boulevard • Council Bluffs, IA 51503-7898 • 712-366-0571 (V/TTY)

DATE: March 19, 2009

TO: Parents and Guardians of ISD Students
All ISD Faculty and Staff
AEA Special Education Directors
AEA Teachers of Hearing Impaired
AEA Audiologists

FROM: Jeanne Glidden Prickett, EdD, Superintendent

RE: ISD Summer Programs for 2009

You may have read in the newspapers that the state of Iowa has a budget crisis, with a very large deficit. The Governor and Legislature have recommended budget cuts for state agencies of 6.5% across the board.

ISD will be affected. We have asked to be aligned with regular school districts in Iowa, who will not be cut, but have a 2% increase. However, we do not know if ISD will receive an increase, be “flat funded” (no increase or decrease) or a cut, which means that we are planning ahead in case a cut does occur. A cut of 6.5% to our budget would mean a loss of approximately \$650,000. This is a very large amount of money for a program the size of ISD’s.

We will not know the exact status of our budget for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2009 until mid-April when the Iowa Legislature is done with its session for this year. Therefore, we must make decisions now concerning the summer program, since it must be announced several months ahead so families can make summer plans and ISD personnel can make plans as well.

Because we do not know what our budget will be for next year, we regret that for summer 2009 we must suspend the summer program that ISD has had for many years. If the budget is not cut as much as we anticipate, it is possible that we can have a very short session for the youngest ISD students (preschool through 6 years old) who have significant language needs and live locally. This will be decided closer to the middle of May, and we will communicate directly with the parents of students who will be involved if we find we can provide the shorter program.

ISD students who have Extended School Year on their IEPs will be served. We will make arrangements with local districts for students who live too far from ISD to be served on campus or by ISD itinerant personnel. We hope that we will be able to re-establish the summer program in future years. Please contact me if you have questions or want additional information. Thank you.