



Educating each child for success...

Memo

To: SJSD Teachers, Educational Support Staff, Administrators, and Board
From: Melody Smith
Date: 4/20/2010
Re: Information Update

Greetings, SJSD Teachers, Educational Support Staff, and Administrators

I write this memo with hope that winter is now history and that spring has sprung. Whether that is true or not, the signs of spring are around us, including a spring-forward into daylight savings early Sunday morning and the many activities that accompany the last quarter of the school year.

Here is an update on several topics that impact you.

Make-up Days (6 days) for inclement weather were included in the academic calendar; however, SJSD students have missed 7 days to date. **May 21 will be the make-up day for that 7th day as required by Missouri statute.** Hopefully, we will not need to miss additional days this year. If the SJSD misses more school due to inclement weather, we will revisit the statutory guidelines and determine our next steps. Let's hope for the best!

Summer School is scheduled for May 25 – June 17. It is important that you know summer school is funded 100% by state revenue; however, we do not know whether or not summer school will be funded this year. **If, by chance, summer school funding is not available from the state, with the exception of extended school year for special services and credit recovery for high school, the SJSD will not have summer school or Summer Explorers.** Thank you for your patience as we wait for the Legislature and the Governor to determine the fate of summer school funding. We will be sure to keep you informed as information is made available.

Funding provided by the state for the current school year has been drastically reduced. To date, the SJSD is projected to lose close to \$2 million in state revenues. Until the state budget is approved, we are living with great uncertainty. The only thing for certain in the next two years is that state funding projections are worse. The State has reported a \$1 billion shortfall in expected revenue. We have already been informed that we should project a minimum 4% loss in revenue from the State next year. It's important to note that several services and programs offered by the SJSD are funded partially or completely with state funds (e.g. transportation, Parents As Teachers, Adult Education, Summer School, and Career Ladder often used for tutoring programs, to name a few).

Information about funding changes weekly – sometimes daily. We have to wait for the Legislature and Governor to set the budget in mid-May in order to have a clearer picture of the future. One thing that is certain is that we will, again, tighten our belts next year. For now, plan for summer school and plan for Career Ladder, if you are eligible. The Board of Education has already budgeted this year's work for Career Ladder. Be sure to thank the Board when you see them.

Long-Range Planning will be jumpstarted by **Community Engagement Sessions** (CES) that begin later this month. As you know, each five years we revisit the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP) at the District level and School Improvement Plans (SIP) at each school. Departmental plans, facilities plans, and technology plans are also revised during this process. These plans are the roadmap that keeps us focused on continuously improving our work in public education and in service to our community. We will continue to make data-driven decisions in our pursuit to educate each child for success. We also will engage our community in visioning for the school district during a yearlong process that will prepare us for the next five-year cycle of comprehensive planning that begins in 2012. Staff, you are important to this process. I hope you will think about your vision for our schools and commit to participating as we move forward. Note the attached a letter sent to parents and community members about community engagement.

The mission of our work has not changed; we are still educating each child for success. You are making it happen. Together, we will weather the storms ahead, but for now let's celebrate spring, let's celebrate our work, and let's celebrate our students' success. Let's capture the joy a child or young person has when they discover, learn, and play.

Enjoy Spring Break!
Melody