



SCHOOL BOARD OF POLK COUNTY

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Superintendent of Schools

Dear Staff Members,

After spending time in Tallahassee this week meeting with several legislators and others in key positions, the financial picture looks brighter for our school district. At this point it appears that this ray of hope hinges on our legislators' willingness to look at other sources of revenue, allow flexibility with funds and infuse the federal Stimulus dollars to assist with the education budget shortfalls. This is good news. Again, nothing is confirmed and things remain very fluid, but I am cautiously optimistic that the deficit for our school district will not be at the 15% level originally projected.

I want to also express my gratitude to all of you who have taken the time to communicate your concerns to our elected officials and the leadership of the Department of Education. Your voices are being heard in and around the halls of the Capitol, Senate and House buildings. Your efforts have helped to make a difference.

My thanks to each of you for all that you do to assist with the education of our students. I recognize that these are difficult times, but I do hope that you are able to spend relaxing time with your family and friends over the break.

There will be updates on the budget status when we return from Spring Break.

My Best,

Gail F. McKinzie, Ph.D.
Superintendent