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BUDGET COMMUNIQUE #2

January 30, 2012

Dear Amphitheater Colleagues:

As we move into February, I am writing this letter to inform you of Arizona budget news related to K-12 education and Amphitheater, specifically. The Governor has recently released her budget proposal. In general, that budget continues current funding at this year's level with no increases for inflation. While the specifics are not completely clear, there does appear to be a proposed increase for grades K-3 to support interventions to ensure students are reading fluently by the third grade.

The lack of real detail about the budget so early in the legislative session in turn precludes my ability to be very specific about budget planning for next year. However, knowing that our Governing Board is always interested in providing whatever increases are possible, our current focus is on identifying the means necessary to increase compensation levels for next year for all employees in some way. There is even some good news at this early date in the session that can help make this possible. For example, sales tax revenues from Proposition 301 have stabilized somewhat after a period of continuous decline over the last three years. And, it appears that there is no agenda this session to cut our funding again.

On behalf of the Governing Board, I continue to remain grateful for the positive attitude and resiliency which I see demonstrated throughout the District's schools and other facilities. Our students benefit daily from the expertise you each provide them. Thank you very much.

I will continue to do my best to keep you informed as new information is available.

Most Sincerely,

Vicki Balentine, Ph.D.
Superintendent